

THE HISTORY OF
SHARON AND WISE
Baptist Church



1858 - 1958



By

CLARENCE H. THOMPSON

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To James. Y. Kerr
From the author.
Clarence H. Thompson
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THE PRESENT WISE BAPTIST CHURCH

THE HISTORY OF
SHARON AND WISE
Baptist Church



1858 - 1958



By
CLARENCE H. THOMPSON

PREFACE

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I am Clarence H. Thompson of Wise, N. C. I make this distinction because the Thompson's are almost as plentiful as the Smith's and Jones. Personally, I've known seven Clarence Thompson's in my traveling around. Evidently this name was very popular with the Thompson mothers

I was born just east of Wise, more years ago than I care to remember and am the oldest son of John Lolo and Creola Saint Sing Thompson. However, my grandparents W. H. and Rosa Jane Saint Sing reared me and took care of my early education.

Later my uncle William Webb Saint Sing and his wife, Lucy took care of my education and my physical, and financial needs. They still help me in any way they can. One could not want for truer friends or companions.

I attended grade school in Warren County, and graduated from Wise High School. At the time, it was considered one of the best in the County.

I do not have a college degree. However, I'm probably well educated. By a wide and varied field of studying through the years my knowledge of many things has increased. At least, I've arrived at this conclusion. **I know very little**, when you consider how much there is to know in all the fields of learning and modern research.

I was selected for military service in 1942 -- attended some of the best mechanical and electrical schools of Maryland and Mississippi, graduated as a fuel induction specialist, and taught carburetion, electrical automotive work, and deisel care and operation for one year at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Md.

Later I was transferred to the Army Air Force and spent two years in England attached to the Eighth Air Force in the 2001st. Ordinance Maintenance AVN Co. A. F. At the close of the War, I attended a small little-known university in England that we as soldiers called "The University of

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Sudbury." There, I studied advance French and Small Business Management. When I returned to "God's Country," America, my next stop was home. This was, and still is, a farm home near Wise lovingly named "Mocking Bird Hill." Here I am engaged in agricultural work in all of its many phases. I also work in a warehouse in Warrenton, and have managed Warren County's first Farmers' Curb Market for many years. Enough for that.

Since I've written this book, I've been asked many questions, as -- "Have you written anything before?" Yes, I've written some short stories, and I must have written a poem or two about some of the girls I knew in school. Most boys do, you know, and I'm very human. But this is my first flight into a work of this length. Perhaps it will also be my last.

Then, some ask "Why did you do this work?" I can only say I've felt impelled from within to do this work. I'd like to think God has used me as a humble instrument to preserve for posterity the lives and deeds of these great men and women of our church. The records show that they really kept the faith. But many times these records were in the hearts of their neighbors and fellowmen. But could records be treasured better or safer? Many ask, "Will you make money out of this book?" The answer is definitely 'No.' The sale of this book may pay the expenses of publishing it, but it could never pay the other expenses that went into its production. Also, nearly two years of work went into it before it was completed.

Although I will make no money out of this, I will be paid. It has been a work of love to me. I saw the need for this work many years ago. Now that it is finished, I thank God for the privilege of allowing me to contribute this much to the cause of Christ. Yes, I've been paid.

This book is lovingly submitted to your care with the hope that you will like it and treasure it for future generations. Its value will not decrease with age or use.

Sincerely,
Clarence H. Thompson
Wise, North Carolina

This book is dedicated to the memory of the
consecrated men and women whose faith and
untiring efforts made this church a living
reality, and a power for good in this community.

C. H. T.

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| CHAPTER I—A History of Old Sharon and Wise Baptist Church | 9 |
| CHAPTER II—Rev. L. C. Perkinson, The Founder | 11 |
| CHAPTER III—Sharon Church - A Beginning | 15 |
| Sharon Church - Exterior | 15 |
| Sharon Church - Interior | 16 |
| Sharon Church - Organization | 17 |
| CHAPTER IV—Sharon Church - A Typical Church Day | 20 |
| CHAPTER V—Early Music in the Church | 22 |
| CHAPTER VI—And Then the War Came | 24 |
| Post Civil War Years | 26 |
| The Pool | 28 |
| CHAPTER VII—The New Sharon Church | 30 |
| CHAPTER VIII—The Death of the Founder of our Church | 33 |
| CHAPTER IX—William Orris Dunn | 35 |
| CHAPTER X—Early Representatives to Our Association | 37 |
| Associational Messengers | 39 |
| Information of General Interest | 40 |
| CHAPTER XI—Honor Roll - World War I | 42 |
| Honor Roll - World War II | 42 |
| Honor Roll - Korean War | 43 |
| CHAPTER XII—Times at which Association has met at Wise | 44 |
| CHAPTER XIII—Education Building | 46 |
| CHAPTER XIV—Coley Clemmons Perkinson - Church Treasurer | 47 |
| Clerks of our Church | 48 |
| CHAPTER XV—Our Cemetery | 49 |
| CHAPTER XVI—Progress in Church and Sunday School | 55 |
| Proposed Church Budget—1959-60 | 57 |
| CHAPTER XVII—Roll Wise Baptist Church - February 1959 | 59 |
| CHAPTER XVIII—Sunday School Superintendents and Assistants and Other Officers | 62 |
| Deacons of Our Church | 63 |
| Hillary T. Jeffress - Church Leader and Early Deacon | 64 |
| CHAPTER XIX—Sunday School Teachers | 66 |

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----|
| CHAPTER XX—The Remodeling of Wise Baptist Church..... | 68 |
| CHAPTER XXI—List of pastors and years of service, followed by Life Sketches in order..... | 71 |
| Josiah B. Solomon..... | 72 |
| James S. Purefoy | 73 |
| N. Addison Purefoy..... | 73 |
| C. T. Bailey..... | 74 |
| D. A. Glenn | 75 |
| Wilson Bunyan Morton..... | 75 |
| Needham Bryon Cobb..... | 76 |
| George W. Harmon..... | 78 |
| J. T. Edmundson..... | 78 |
| I. N. Loftin..... | 79 |
| William Jackson Jones..... | 80 |
| A. V. Joyner..... | 81 |
| W. P. Campbell..... | 82 |
| K. W. Hogan..... | 83 |
| Leonidas L. Johnson..... | 83 |
| C. H. Myers..... | 85 |
| L. Spurgeon Clark..... | 88 |
| Norley Franklin Britt..... | 89 |
| W. R. Stephens..... | 90 |
| Frederick Guy Walker..... | 91 |
| Robert L. Holt..... | 94 |
| James S. Potter..... | 94 |
| E. Eugene Poston..... | 95 |
| Herbert P. Miller..... | 96 |
| Wayne A. Slayton..... | 96 |
| Warren T. Bush..... | 96 |
| Earl Louis Harden..... | 97 |
| E. E. Ballard..... | 99 |
| Alfred Thomas Ayscue..... | 99 |
| IN MEMORIAM | 100 |
| CHAPTER XXII—Conclusion..... | 101 |

Chapter I

A HISTORY OF THE OLD SHARON AND WISE BAPTIST CHURCH

Over a hundred years ago there were very few organized churches in this community. This is not to say the people were not devout God-fearing people, for they were, and came to worship whenever and wherever the opportunity presented itself. I say "whenever" because usually there was no fixed time or day for meetings, and no particular place. Often they met in some neighbor's home, and in the summer sometimes a bush arbor was made to gather under, to listen to the Word of God as it was expounded to them usually by some traveling preacher called a "Circuit Rider," because they travelled around in such a manner as to try to hold services in the same localities fairly regularly.

These preachers were often religious laymen, sometimes not so well educated, but having a burning desire to spread the Word, to minister to those in trouble. They came to say the last words over departed loved ones, many times riding long miles over terrible roads. But feeling it was their duty, they usually came. They united couples in marriage too, usually at the close of worship service.

On account of the roads, these preachers almost always travelled by horseback, carrying all of their equipment in saddlebags. It usually consisted of a Bible, a song book, a clean white shirt, a black string tie, and a long black frock coat. Most of them wore full beards perhaps because it was the custom then for men to wear facial adornment. Then too, barber shops were not as well known as now.

Most of these preachers preached fiery sermons about Hell and Damnation. In fact it is said of some of them that they preached of Hell so plain that you could go home and put your finger on the Atlas where it is.

But the people loved these preachers, and attended

their meetings whenever the word was spread around that the "Circuit Rider" is going to be at "so and so's " Saturday afternoon, or any day or time. They came and brought the whole family. In buggies, wagons, oxcarts, on horseback, and afoot they came to hear the Word of God.

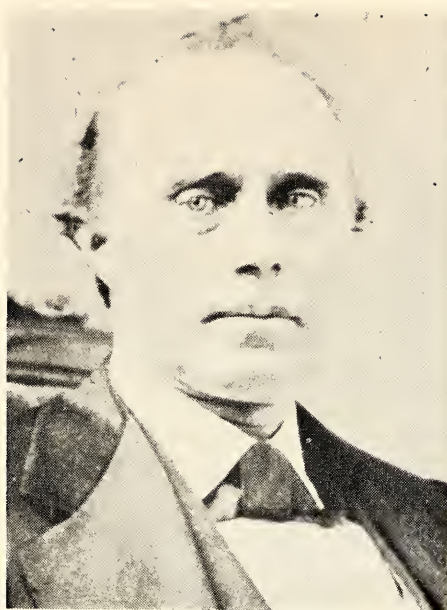
Then about 1853 the condition was somewhat improved by the Rev. Josiah B. Solomon's coming regularly to preach in this community. He was then pastor in Warrenton and was a very able and popular preacher. Large crowds attended his meetings. Many were converted, baptized, and taken into the fellowship of the Warrenton church.

But the people were not happy about having no church in which to worship. More and more the need for a house in which to gather themselves together to worship was felt. As ever the case, when there is a sincere desire to do a worthwhile thing, a way is opened. No doubt they talked about this great need. They prayed about it too, I'm sure, and then began to do something about it.

It was about then that the Rev. L. C. Perkinson, seeing the great need, *donated a plot of land, one acre, on which to build a church and did much of the work with his own hands.

Old Sharon church, was actually an outgrowth of Tanner's meeting house at Warren Plains, at which Dr. Willoughby Hudgins held meetings from time to time. Some of our members attended there before we had a house of worship.

*Records in Courthouse in Warrenton, N. C., book 31, page 870. Dated August 6, 1858.



REV. L. C. PERKINSON

Chapter II

REV. L. C. PERKINSON, THE FOUNDER

It might be truly said that the Rev. L. C. Perkinson was the founder of the Sharon Baptist Church, and its successor the Wise Baptist Church.

He was born in this locality on January 18, 1826, and grew up in this community. He probably attended one of the one-room schools hereabout. Early in life he made a profession of religion and was united with Enon, now Littleton Baptist Church. Later, he moved his membership to Warrenton. He remained a member there until Sharon Church was constituted, becoming one of the charter members of that body.

Mr. Perkinson was educated at Wake Forest College, and after his graduation was for a time the representative

of Oxford Female College. By nature and training he was fitted for large usefulness and was a preacher of decided ability, and a competent school teacher. He was also a man of affairs. He was a successful farmer, and at one time was engaged in the mercantile business. He had a strong mind in his stalwart body and usually succeeded in his undertakings.

At the age of 29, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Hicks, a local girl. The license was procured on April 9, 1855 with E. T. Rice as bondsman and John W. White, then Clerk of Court in Warren County, acting as witness. The wedding ceremony was performed by the Rev. N. A. Purefoy on April 11, 1855. Incidentally, the Rev. Purefoy is the same one that assisted the Rev. Josiah B. Solomon in preaching the dedication sermon at Sharon Church.

Of this union, several children were born, namely: Neanda, Luther, Tommie, Laura, Lucy, and one daughter Mary, who died in infancy and was the second person interred in Sharon Cemetery.

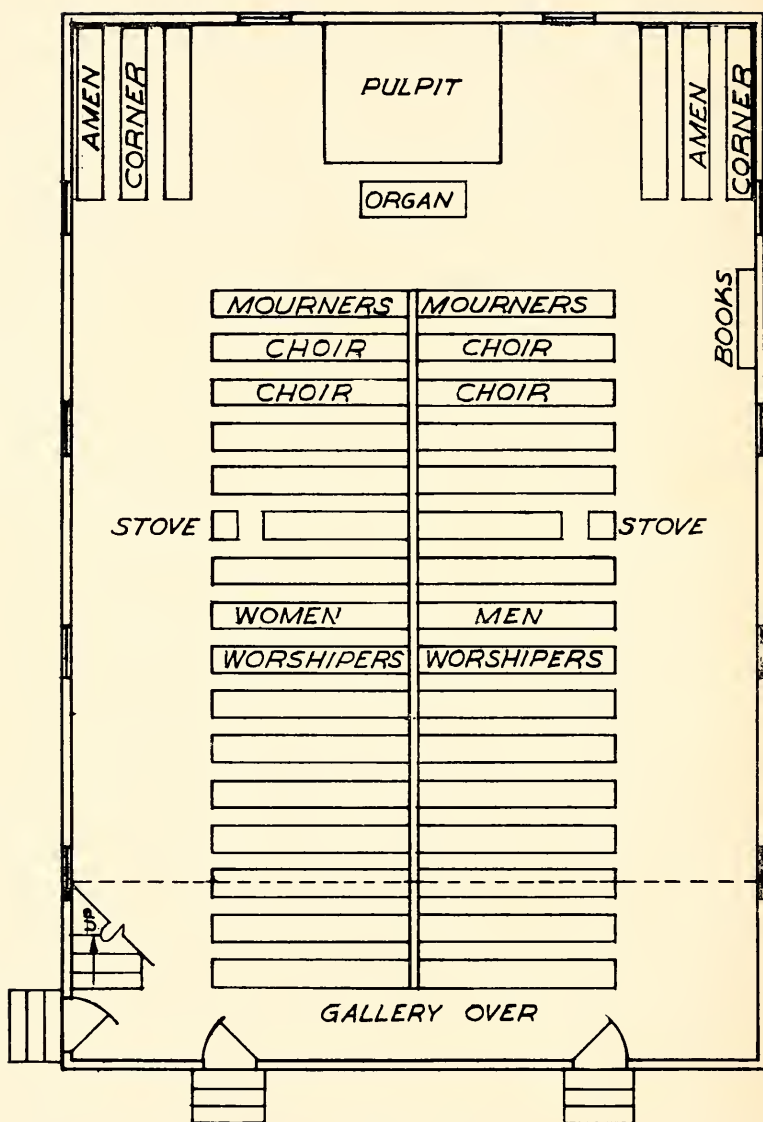
On July 20, 1873, Mary E. Perkinson died after being Rev. Perkinson's help mate and companion for eighteen years. She was buried in the family plot at Sharon Church.

Three years later, on December 14, 1876 Rev. Perkinson took unto himself another companion and wife, this time marrying Cynthia Burton Perkinson, a charter member of Sharon Church and a member of the Woman's Missionary Society. She came to Sharon Church from Warrenton Baptist Church, and was probably one of Josiah B. Solomon's converts that affiliated themselves with the Warrenton Church after attending his services in and around Wise. Miss Perkinson first saw the light of day in this locality on March 1, 1842 and spent her entire life here. It is said of her that she was a faithful mother and step-mother, and served untiringly in any way she could the Church and its work of goodness. She gave of her means, her time, and her words.

Of this union two children were born: Calvin, a son; and Eunice, a daughter.

She was the Preacher's faithful helper for thirty-one

years, and on the morning of January 13, 1908, she passed quietly to her reward, after a brief illness. She lacked only a few weeks of being sixty-six years old. Her remains rest in the Sharon burying ground in the family plot. Mrs. Perkinson outlived her husband by only three days less than two months.



PLAN
 OLD SHARON CHURCH
 BY LES CHAPMAN
 CHARLOTTE, N.C. SCALE: $\frac{1}{8}" = 1'-0"$

Chapter III

SHARON CHURCH, A BEGINNING

Early in the year 1858, Rev. Levi C. Perkinson gave a plot of land, one acre, to be used for a church and cemetery, for the life of the church. This land was 3/10 of a mile east of the present church, and was just about in the middle of our cemetery.

This was a beautiful place for a church as the ground sloped gently to the West, was well drained, and there were many nice oak trees scattered about the lot. It was also near the road and just across from it was the schoolhouse.

It is said that Rev. Perkinson laid the corner stone with his own hands on a clear night so that he might observe the North Star and properly align the building with it.

SHARON CHURCH (EXTERIOR)

The work on the building went forward rapidly with Dick Thompson, a local carpenter, taking charge of the construction of the church. Rev. Perkinson also helped at every opportunity. The building was constructed entirely of first quality wood, the size being 40 x 60 feet, having an A roof. It was built on pillars about three feet high. Practibility instead of ornamentation was the theme in its styling. A row of simple glass windows extended down each side of the building. There were also windows on each side of the pulpit at the North end of the building. Also there was a window up near the eaves on each side at the South end to supply light and ventilation for the gallery. This was entered by a flight of inside steps that went up the West side, to a platform and door opening into the gallery. I'll have more to say about the gallery and its use later.

There were two front doors to enter the church. One door was on the left, and the other on the right. No steeple was built on the Church, and it never had a bell. Only one

chimney was used in the center of the roof to which two woodstoves were piped to furnish warmth in the winter.

Incidentally, the space under the building was used to store wood for fuel, this wood being furnished by the church members.

The roof was covered with wood shingles and the outside of the building was painted white with a brown trim. Altogether this was a beautiful church as it nestled among the oak trees on this gentle knoll. As I've said, its plans were plain and simple, but this did not distract from its appearance.

SHARON CHURCH (INTERIOR)

The walls were plastered, plain white with a baseboard and planking extending about three feet from the floor or up to the bottom of the windows and this was painted a dark color probably painted to match the baseboard.

The ceiling was painted a kind of blue color. From the ceiling four swinging oil lamps were suspended over the main part of the building. In addition to these, there were two wall bracket lamps on the wall behind the pulpit, one on each side of the altar.

The pulpit was in the center of the building on the North end and on each side of it were several short pews. These were called the "Amen Corners."

The pews in the main part of the building extended from the South end of the church at front doors down to near the pulpit. (The front doors were never locked and anyone was free to go in and worship at any time.) There was no center aisle. In fact there was a partition in the center of the rows of pews separating the left side from the right. As I have stated, there were two front doors, the women and girls used the left door, and the left side of the pews; the men and boys used the right hand pews. The only difference in the arrangement was that of a cuspidor at the end of each row of pews on the men's side for the use of the men that chewed tobacco. It was permissible for men to "chew" in church if they liked. None of the women used snuff in church though many used it in those days. They probably felt it was unlady-

like, or even it was morally wrong to use it in church.

You will perhaps wonder about this kind of seating arrangement, the women on one side and the men, the other, and never together in church - or rarely ever. According to information received from Mr. George W. Hawks, now nearly 86 years old, a former member and first janitor (though he said he was a handyman), he said, "It just was not the style."

About halfway down the right and left aisle the ends of one row of the pews were removed, and there the stoves were placed for warming the building in winter. These were wood stoves and the wood was supplied by members as needed and kept stored under the building.

Above the pews used by the white members across the back of the church, or the South end, was the gallery. The floor of this was slightly elevated, and benches with no backs were used for seating the colored people who attended church. There were actually many colored members of the Church. This was probably because there were no colored churches for them to attend and because the white members, and in many cases the owners of these colored members, wanted them to have the same religious privileges and joys as they had. You must remember that these colored people were slaves at this time.

SHARON CHURCH - ORGANIZATION

Sharon Church was organized on July 10, 1858 with Elder Josiah B. Solomon as the first pastor, and the charter members were the following persons:

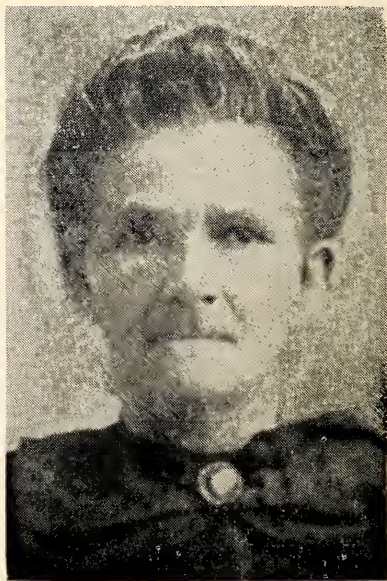
Rev. L. C. Perkinson, second pastor of Sharon Church; Mary E. Perkinson, Preacher's first wife; Cynthia Burton Perkinson, Preacher Perkinson's second wife-moved membership from Warrenton Church. Mrs. Sally P. Perkinson, Mrs. Mary John Perkinson, Weseley Perkinson, Mrs. Salina Pitchford Majors, Mrs. Lucy Young, Miss Sallie Hawks - married Tom Young, Mrs. Wilker Pitchford, Armstead King, Johnnie King, Miss Rosa King, Miss Pinky Hicks, Mrs. Susan Hicks, Daniel Hicks, Palmer Hicks, Sr., William Hicks, Jr., Mrs. Winnifred P. Crowder - Our great grandmother on mother's



MRS. WINNIFRED CROWDER

Mrs. Winnifred Crowder, an original charter member of Sharon church - wife of Wiley Crowder, mother of David Crowder, and Rosa Jane Crowder who later became Mrs. W. H. Saint Sing and my grandmother.

Mrs. Salina Majors one of the original charter members of Sharon church. Wife of Neal Majors - mother of Frank Majors of Henderson and Bessie Majors now Mrs. Neal Magnum.



MRS. SALINA MAJORS

side of family, Mrs. Lucy Coleman, Mrs. Annie Coleman, Dick Coleman, Mary Pitchford, Mrs. Anne King, Deosa Hicks.

These people constituted the charter membership insofar as I have been able to ascertain at this time and I might say that they were some of the best people of the first families of the community of that day and time.

Among the colored people who were members were: Edd White, Austin White, Emma White, Mag Green, Squire Davis, Katherine Davis and their daughter Mary Davis. Pleasant Alexander was probably a member as was also Donahue Perkinson and many others. I might be safe in saying that most, or many, of the leading colored people's ancestors of this community were members of old Sharon Church. Our present janitor, Charlie White, descended from the Whites previously mentioned.

These colored people joined in the singing and worship for many years until the regretful incident I'm about to relate occurred. It seems that on one occasion during worship service, one of the colored members, perhaps in religious zeal and excitement, spit tobacco juice on the white members beneath them. After this, they were no longer welcome and went to services elsewhere.

The highest membership of colored members ever recorded in Sharon Church was in 1870 with a total of thirty eight members. In 1874 only twenty were mentioned, and afterwards gradually decreasing until in 1882 only three colored members remained. I believe my grandmother said these were three good old colored ladies who had no desire to go anywhere else to worship and remained for years after all the others were gone.

Many of these colored people later attended Locust Grove, local colored Baptist Church, upon its organization.

The dedication sermon was preached by Elder Josiah B. Solomon and Addison Purefoy, the text being "I am the Rose of Sharon." Elder Solomon served until 1860 at which time he moved to Richmond, Virginia to preach there.

The Church was received into the Tar River Association in August of 1858. The Association was entertained at Sharon Church in 1859, and 1869.

Chapter IV

SHARON CHURCH - A TYPICAL CHURCH DAY

After thinking it over, I'm inclined to think that the roads and the modes of travel had much to do with the schedule of the early meetings in our church.

The roads wandered across country, seemingly trying to pass by everyone's door -- pretty as could be in summer, actually a kind of green and leafy aisle cut through the forest. It was very pleasant to travel these roads in summer and spring, but it was an entirely different story in winter because the roads became two muddy ruts that you traveled over slowly and with great difficulty. As people had to use buggies and wagons, and sometimes oxcarts, and sometimes they went to church on horseback, those that were unattached; namely very young men, bachelors and widowers, travel was slow and arduous sometimes taking several hours to arrive at church. So our church services at first usually lasted all day. Usually they began with the Sunday School and then going into the morning preaching service. After these services, basket lunches were served on the church grounds. The tables were situated on the West side of our Church among the oak trees. The well was just off the East side of the Church across the road near the school building and was used for drinking purposes. Later it was used to fill the pool.

The meals were something for gourmets to dream about: golden fried chicken, baked hams, corn puddings, fresh cooked biscuits from homegrown wheat with a nice nutty flavor, all kinds of homemade pickles and cakes. In addition to this, in season many kinds of vegetables were served. When you think of all the women members fixing of their very best and trying to excel each other, no wonder the meals were such a success. There are still living some who have not forgotten Sunday dinner at Old Sharon Church.

After the dishes and leftovers were packed away in

lunch baskets and hampers, friends, and relatives gathered together in little groups under the trees and enjoyed a social hour. For many this was the only chance to visit some of their friends and relatives.

Perhaps the women talked of someone's new baby, or the newly weds in the community, or how best to bake a pound cake. Then they could have gossiped a little, or would they?

The men as they leaned back against the oaks and chewed their tobacco, talked of farm problems, politics, and no doubt about the War, for even then the dark clouds of war loomed over the horizon. But most of the men did not think the "Yankees" would fight to free the negro. Four years later many of these men were on the battlefield defending their opinions and their way of life.

The children had a good time too. They played games like "Annie Over," "Fox in the War," Cat ball, hide and seek, and so on. Many of these games of children have been replaced by others and are only remembered by older people.

The young people took advantage of the noon hour to court a little. Many romances that began here blossomed into true love, with these couples going on to get married and to raise families that have had much to do with this community and its welfare. I've been told that the buggies, and surreys were the favorite courting spots, and I know my father courted my mother in the family buggy at Sharon Church after the noon meal.

After a reasonable time, an hour or two, church services were resumed.

Preaching services were held on the first Sunday in each month, Sunday school every Sunday and prayer meeting Sunday nights. Sometimes services were held on Saturday afternoons with some members coming from a distance, spending the night in a relative's home, attending Sunday school next morning, and then returning home. Bad roads and slow modes of transportation had much to do with shaping church services in early days.

Chapter V

EARLY MUSIC IN OUR CHURCH

For thirty six years our church had no music but the human voice. But please do not misunderstand me, they had music, for they could sing -- sing from their very hearts and souls, putting themselves into their music.

One of my fondest childhood memories is of how, after the supper meal, my grandfather would take me on his knees before the fireplace, and as my grandmother would sit across from us would sing to me old spirituals and hymns. I think "Amazing Grace" was his favorite, but he sang many others. I can recall looking up at the beams under the upper floor of the log house in which we lived as he sang, and somehow God's love and understanding has never been as close to me as then. Yes, he sang from his heart.

There were rarely enough song books to go around, though there were some. Mr. George Hawks says that was one of his jobs, to hand the books out and to take them in after the services. Books didn't matter too much for the pastor or song leader would "line out" a verse, this would be sung, then he would line out another verse and so on. Soon the members knew all the songs and joined heartily in the singing.

In 1894 a small foot-pumped organ was procured. No doubt but the members were justly proud of it. Our first organist was Miss Helen Perkinson who played for church services until she was married to Arthur Perkinson by Rev. J. T. Edmondson on January 31, 1900. After the marriage of Miss Helen Perkinson, Susan Ann Perkinson, known to her friends as Sudie, played for many years. Miss Olivia Perkinson, later Mrs. M. H. Hayes, also played at times.

William Orris Dunn moved with his family to Wise in 1902. He was principal of the school, a deacon in the church and leader in public education, a great help in get-

ting the first high school in Wise. He was Sunday school superintendent at the time of his death in 1908. His daughter Carrie was a music teacher and many of her pupils played at different times in our church. Miss Carrie also played for services for many years. Later, her sister Emma was pianist in the new church. Among some of her pupils who helped with the music were Lena White, Lalla White, Mary Perkinson, Betty Mustian, Nora Weldon, Helen Weldon, and Mamie Hicks.

Vocal lessons were given every other Friday evening in church by Miss Carrie Dunn and father and opening exercises for school were held every day in the church building across the road from the school. These exercises usually consisted of the singing of one song, reading scripture, and roll call. Mr. W. O. Dunn lead in scripture reading.

The old organ was removed to the new church in 1908 and was used there until the death of Mrs. Susan Perkinson Rudd in 1924. She left a bequest to buy a new piano for the church, which was done. The old organ was moved to Mr. Rudd's and put in a building for storage. Later it was sold or given to Mary Liza Thrower. I believe it was used a while in Locust Grove Church, a local colored Baptist Church.

In 1957 Mrs. C. C. Perkinson paid \$225.00 to have the piano Mrs. Rudd gave the church renovated and rebuilt. Now this beautiful musical instrument will grace our church for many more years, thanks to Mrs. Perkinson, and her thoughtfulness.

Chapter VI

AND THEN THE WAR CAME

In 1861 North Carolina seceded from the Union, and joined the Confederate States.

On April 12, 1861 the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter, situated in the harbor of Charleston, S. C. and the conflict was precipitated when Lincoln immediately called for 75,000 volunteers to enforce the authority of the Union and proceeded to blockade the ports of the Southern states.

The Confederate States likewise called for volunteers, and issued letters of Marque and reprisal. The North was rich and had a greater variety of industry, but the South was better united and were imbued with a more enthusiastic Military spirit. The first blood was shed in Baltimore on April 19, 1861.

About April 21, and the 19th. of May, 1861 the Warren County Company was formed; Namely, the 43 Regiment, Company G (Infantry) and served until Gettysburg, Under the leadership of Levi P. Coleman and John B. Powell, many of our church members marched away to war with its glory and carnage. Some came home after the conflict. Others rest in unnamed graves.

Among our church members who served were:

Robert Claiborne, Reg. 43, Co. G.

Rufus Pitchford, Reg. 43, Co. G.

Richard H. Thompson, Reg. 43, Co. G. — Builder of our church. Later organized and built a Free Will Baptist Church in Wise that did not survive.

Levi C. Perkinson, Reg. 43, Co. G. Preacher's brother.

Hillary Thomas Jeffress, Company and rank unknown.

Levi Talley, Reg. 43, Co. G. — one of the grantees of our first church.

Armstead King, Reg. 46, Co. 3.

Page Perkinson, Reg. 44, Va. Btn.

Daniel Hicks, Reg. 14, Co. A.

Bartlett Crowder, Reg. 12, Co. F.

Wiley Crowder — Company unknown. Killed in battle and buried in an unknown grave. He was my great grandfather.

There were other members of course who served in the War, but due to lack of records, we cannot name them here, as much as we would like to. There are two I'd like to mention: James H. Hawks, Reg. 11, Co. C. and Fred A. Hawks, Reg. 9, Co. E, who though not members, attended our church, and whose bodies now rest in our cemetery. My Grandfather, Daniel Thompson, on my father's side of the family also served with the 43rd. Reg., Co. G fighting in many of the battles along the Eastern Seaboard and was at Appomattox Court House April 9, 1865 when Lee surrendered. He had the distinction of being the strongest man in the Company and the only one able to carry a barrel of flour in wood. His remains rest in a marked grave on Thomas Weldon's Place.

Much has been said about the bravery and spirit of our Confederate soldiers and why they fought so long against such great odds. I think it can be safely said, it was not to keep the Negro enslaved, for most of them were poor men, and only one in ten owned any slaves. No. it was not that -- Actually, I believe these men thought their State rights were being infringed upon. They were educated to believe that State governments were their own, and any attacks upon it were a violation of a sacred compact. Slavery was only one incident in the quarrel. It might have been the occasion, but it was not the cause of the separation from the Union.

Now after nearly a hundred years, the Southern States could and will fight to run their own State governments. It could happen. So these men fought bravely, and some died gloriously on far away battlefields. Those that survived after the surrender on April 12, 1865 came home, many in tattered rags and in many cases barefooted. Some homes had been destroyed, others were desolate. Yes, the ones that had stayed home had suffered too. Food had not been too plentiful. There was no coffee, so they parched corn

to make a beverage to take its place. Salt was scarce too, so they dug up the floors of their meat houses, boiled the dirt to remove the salt, and used it. They spun the thread, wove their own cloth to clothe their bodies. They raised their own food and lived in hopes of better days.

When the men came home, it was necessary for most of them to start over almost from nothing. What little money they owned was worthless, some had no work animals and no seed. But with undaunted spirits, they pitched in to reconstruct their homes, and to make a new way of life.

Through these years of conflict our church survived, and was one of the few things that remained unchanged in a changed world for our returning soldiers.

POST CIVIL WAR YEARS

Actually during the war our membership increased. From a beginning of 38 white members, and seven colored, by 1860 we had 64 white members, and nine colored members. In 1862 we had increased to 70 white and 12 colored members and by 1865 the total was 95 white and 14 colored members.

Our pastors through the war years were Rev. L. C. Perkinson and Elder James S. Purefoy. They served faithfully for very small salaries, usually about \$150.00 per year for part-time services. The only way they could possibly work for so little was to have more than one church. Sometimes they had as many as four churches in their field. Money was scarce too, as all Confederate money was worthless, but the members helped their pastors with things they raised at home. There was a friendly and cooperative spirit exhibited between pastor and people then.

By 1867 our membership had risen to 100 white members. This remained about the same until 1873 at which time we had 113 members white and 20 colored. There was a further increase in 1874 with a total of 138 members and 20 colored members. We also had a new pastor this year (1874) Elder C. T. Bailey. He was preaching in Warrenton also at this time. The following year he bought the Biblical Recorder

and became the proprietor and editor of this periodical which he conducted for twenty years. He died in 1895.

Rev. D. A. Glenn became our pastor in 1878 until 1884. During his pastorate, we went forward in the membership phase of our work. In 1878 we had one hundred and fifty members. By 1882 we had one hundred and eighty-four white members and three colored members. All the colored members except three old ladies have gone to a church of their race. There is no other mention of them in the records.

Our Sunday School probably began about 1872, but the first records are in 1879 at which time we had six teachers and officers with fifty members enrolled. In 1881, eighty members.

Pastor D. A. Glenn was our preacher now and the salary was still only \$150.00. He served from 1878 to 1884.

Rev. L. C. Perkinson was our first Sunday School Superintendent. He served up until 1885 at which time Jas. H. Hicks became Sunday School Superintendent (1886). Now W. B. Morton is our pastor. He also returned for a short time in 1913 but was not well received by the church and so had to resign to prevent a split in the church.

He was followed by Rev. Nedhad B. Cobb who stayed with us for three years 1891-1894. 1889 N. G. Perkinson was Superintendent of Sunday School, followed in 1891 by C. W. Perkinson and 1892 by J. H. Hicks.

Rev. G. W. Harmon came to be our pastor in 1894-1896.

And in turn, he was followed by Rev. J. T. Edmundson serving from 1895 to 1904. He was the first pastor to use the newly installed pool in Sharon Church. I expect the members of the church especially appreciated this feature because prior to 1898 it had been necessary to use a stream or mill pond for this Baptist ordinance. Weldon's or Reavis' Pond, west of Wise was usually used.

Rev. Edmundson was succeeded by Rev. I. N. Loftin 1904 to 1906, and then by Pastor W. J. Jones 1906 to 1908,

By then the Old Sharon Church was getting much the worse for wear and tear, and there was talk of building a new church in the village. This is covered in another place in this work. Also, there will be a list of the pastors and the years they served at Sharon and Wise Baptist Church.

THE POOL

When Sharon Church was built no provisions were made for baptising the new members. This service was usually held at Weldon's Mill Pond or Reavis, a body of water about a mile west of the church. Incidentally this pond no longer exists. Nothing was done about this state of affairs for forty years.

Then in 1898 a pool was constructed in the north end of the church behind the pulpit. This was built of rock, and masonry by Isiac Burton, a very famous mason and rock worker of that day. I might say here that I personally do not remember the church, but I saw this pool, many times, for it endured years after the church was torn down and removed.

Across the back of the church, a kind of leanto, or shed room, housing two dressing rooms, was built. Water to fill the pool was hauled from the well, near the school house that stood across the road from the church.

The first time the pool was used was on an October night in 1898. J. T. Edmunson was the officiating minister. Though it is unusual for the time of year, a terrible thunderstorm came up that night and many of the new converts were not able to get to church at all.

The first person baptised in the pool was Miss Pinky Hicks, then thirty years old. She was a very tall person --actually her height was more than the length of the pool, and of course this constituted quite a problem. But the ceremony was performed with no greater mishap than to bump her head slightly against the wall. Others that were baptised on this occasion were Wiley G. Saint Sing, Willie Ball, Betty Collins and India Stevenson. Later Willie and India were married. Creola Fayne Saint Sing, later my mother, then only

thirteen years old, was also baptised that night, and of course others that there are no records to tell of now.

My mother still remembers this special service in her life, and in talking of this with her recently. she said, "There was a bad storm going on that night. Many of the new converts never did get to the church at all, but those that came were baptised. After the service, my father had to harness the horse to the buggy by the lightening flashes, and it was very bad driving home.

Chapter VII

THE NEW SHARON CHURCH

After fifty years of service the old Sharon Church building was becoming much the worse for wear. True, it had been painted several times, and from time to time needed repairs were taken care, but time was making its mark on this old wooden building. There were some of the members too who felt the church should be more in town, or not so far out in the country.

Along with this element of the membership was Mr. J. R. Paschall who told the church if they would move, he would help them build the new church. He was as good as his word, and probably gave more than any other individual to this work. He and his wife Florence gave over a thousand dollars to this cause.

The work of building the church was actually under the supervision of his brother Lee Paschall, the Manager of the Wise Granite Construction Co. and Quarry located east of F. L. Hicks' Mill of now. The granite stones were hauled from this quarry to the location of the building by mules and wagons. This must have been a large task, as we think of labor now fifty years later.

Mr. Andrew Bascomb Spencer, a native of Virginia (born near Chase City), had charge of the building of the church. This must have been a boom year in building for Wise, for he built the brick school house at the same time. This school became the first high school in the County. Mr. Spencer later married a Warren County girl, Miss Nannie Flemings. She is still living at this writing, but Mr. Spencer is dead.

The dimensions of the building were 45 ft. by 62 ft. A Gothic type of architecture was employed in the design of the church. While granite was used for the exterior, local woods were used inside. There was a large auditorium just

off the two front doors with five classrooms on the east side, separated by rolling panels. It was possible to roll these panels up and include all these rooms in the main part of the building when occasions like funerals and big meetings (revivals) made it necessary.

The pulpit and pool occupied the North end of the auditorium, with two dressing rooms that doubled for classrooms for Sunday School on Sundays. The choir was seated on a small platform in the North West corner of the main room. Sometimes the piano was on this platform; sometimes alongside on the main floor.

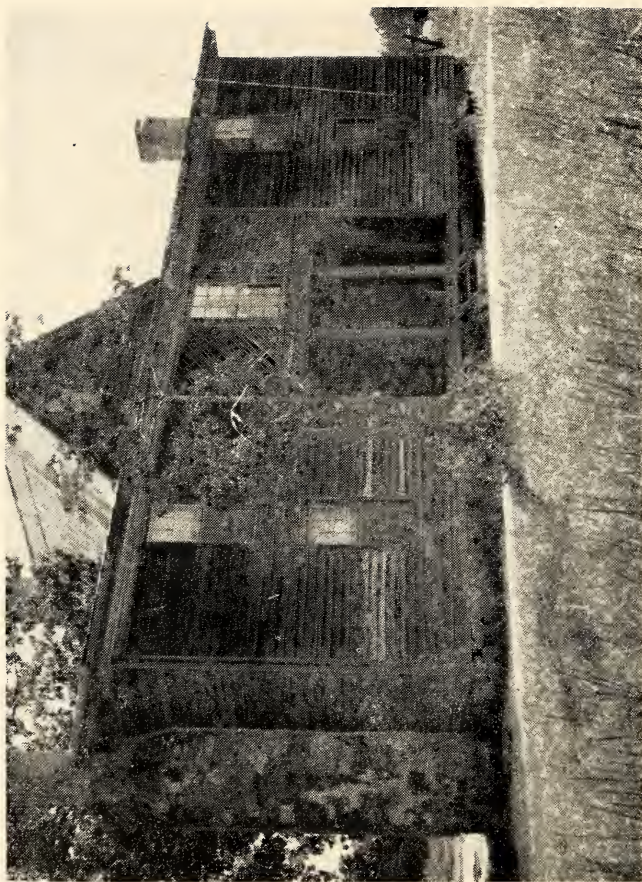
Plain glass windows were used originally covered with a delcomania design. After replacing this several times, stained art glass windows were installed in 1955. This was a memorial project with individual families purchasing a window in memory of a loved one.

Work went on rapidly on the building and it was completed in 1908. The people of Wise thus became the owners of the first stone church in the Tar River Association.

A hot air heating system was installed in the basement. Gas was used for lighting -- actually this was a novelty, but it worked fairly well until the advent of electricity early in the nineteen hundreds.

There was one other thing I must mention. A bell tower was built on the new church. In this a beautiful bell was installed. It was one of the duties of the janitor to ring this bell to call the worshipers to service. I remember hearing Ace Barnes, a much liked colored man and everybody's friend, our janitor for twenty-five or thirty years, say, "I love to ring that bell, to call people to church."

This was a beautiful and well-equipped church building when finished. In fact there wasn't hardly another as pretty anywhere to be found. The amazing thing is that it was estimated at only six thousand dollars a few years later. Of course, labor and materials were cheap, but it does seem it would have cost a great deal more. Fifty years later, an addition of eleven feet, and a complete overhaul of the interior cost over three times as much as the original price of the building. This work will be covered in more detail later.



PICTURE OF L. C. PERKINSON'S HOME

Rev. L. C. Perkinson died here on Friday, November 13, 1908. (Picture taken 50 years later.)

Chapter VIII

THE DEATH OF THE FOUNDER OF OUR CHURCH

On the morning of Friday, November the 13, 1908 our beloved ex-pastor and founder of our church passed quietly away into eternity. At the time of his death he was living in his home at Oakville -- Sometimes called the Yancey House just east of Oakville -- now owned by Gidd King of Oakville. When he died he was one of the oldest ministers in this part of the State. He was buried in Sharon Cemetary in the family plot. Services were conducted by A. V. Joyner, assisted by Rev. W. W. Rose and T. J. Taylor.

Affixed is the actual account of this written by Dr. T. J. Taylor and given to me by Rev. Perkinson's granddaughter, Mrs. Cole Nichols of Rockingham, N. C.

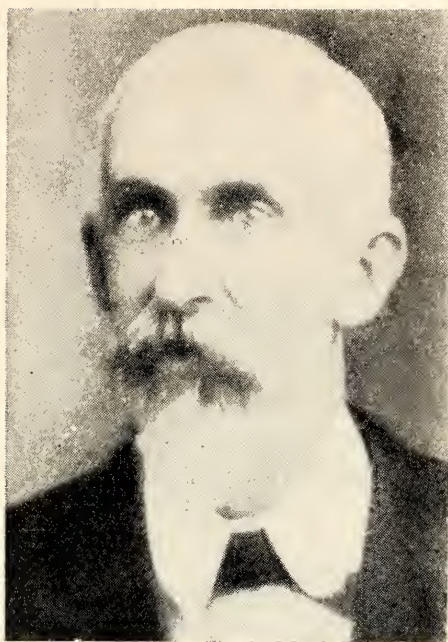
"Rev. Levi C. Perkinson -- We announce with sincere regret the death of our esteemed fellow citizen, the venerable Rev. Levi C. Perkinson. Mr. Perkinson was not only one of our oldest citizen, but he was one of the oldest ministers in this part of the State, being in his enghty-fourth year at the time of his death. He was a native of Warren County, and lived and died in the community where he was born. In early life he made a profession of religion and united with Enon, now Littleton Baptist Church. Later he moved his membership to Warrenton, and when the church at Sharon was constituted he became one of the constituent members of that body. Indeed, it was largely through his efforts that the church was organized and the commodious house of worship was erected. He gave to the promotion of the interest of that church the best that was in him.

"Mr. Perkinson was educated at Wake Forest College, and after his graduation was for a time the representative of Oxford Female Seminary. By nature and training he was

fitted for large usefulness and was a preacher of decided ability. His last pastorate was with the church at Enterprise, which he resigned on account of the infirmities of age. Mr. Perkinson was a man of affairs. He was a successful farmer and at one time engaged in the merchantile business. He had a strong mind in his stalwart body and usually succeeded in his undertakings. He was a public spirited citizen, a broad-minded Christian, a sincere friend, a devoted husband and parent, and the world is richer because he lived in it.

“He died on the morning of Friday the 13th. of November, and was buried at Sharon church on the following Sunday afternoon. A large concourse of sorrowing friends followed his body to the grave. The funeral services were conducted by his pastor, A. V. Joyner, assisted by Revs. W. W. Rose and T. J. Taylor.

“THE RECORD extends sincere sympathy to these sorrowing sons and daughters.”



WILLIAM ORRIS DUNN

Chapter IX

WILLIAM ORRIS DUNN

Mr. Dunn was born at Palmyra, Halifax County, N. C. April 7, 1851. His father was Ben W. Dunn and his wife Martha Ann Bell Dunn. He was educated in private school, with governess and at Horner School, Oxford, N. C. He was active in church work from early in his life.

On October 24, 1875 he was united in marriage to Bettie Tamar Stallings, daughter of Joe Stallings, and Patience Rebbecca Jones his wife of Warren County at Ringwood in Halifax County. He came to work in August 1902 to assume the job of principal of the school then a two room building. But through the years the building grew, more rooms and more teachers were added. Then in 1907 a modern

brick building was erected about a half mile North West of the old school and now near Perkinson's Gin.

Mr. Dunn worked hard with other influential men in the community to get a high school at Wise. This was finally accomplished and Wise had the first high school in Warren County. The new building was finished and he opened school in it in January 1908. To have a high school at Wise had been one of the great desires of his life, but he only lived a short time to enjoy it for he died on January 24, 1908. His son Ben Dunn finished the term that his father began.

At the time of his death Mr. Dunn was a deacon, and Sunday School Superintendent of Sharon Church.

I cannot close this chapter without mentioning the sons and daughters that were born to Mr. and Mrs. William O. Dunn. There were four sons: Ben, Frank, Bob, and Sol. There were also five daughters, but two died as small children. Those who lived were Annie, Carrie, and Emma.

Many of his children continued in the work their father was active in -- educational and spiritual. Miss Carrie taught school until retired. Miss Emma still teaches school at Norlina High School. She has also been our Church Clerk for twenty-six years. She also serves as church organist and teaches the Young Ladies Class regularly.

Miss Carrie served as church pianist, Sunday School teacher, W.M.U. President, and has been very faithful working with the Cemetery Committee. She has always been a person you could depend on to get a job done in our Church.

The boys have been helpful in our Church too. Frank served as teacher of the Adult Men's Class for many years. Bob has taught the Men's Class, and was on the Committee that planned and rebuilt our church in 1957.

So it can be safely said that a man's good works go on after he is gone. Even as the father was a credit to his community in church and school work, so are the sons and daughters carrying on this noble work of church and school.

Chapter X

EARLY REPRESENTATIVES TO OUR ASSOCIATION

- 1858 At Poplar Springs: W. R. Coleman, B. L. Perkinson, S. D. King.
- 1860 At Franklinton: B. L. Perkinson, G. W. Nicholson, J. J. Barrow.
- 1861 At Maple Springs: L. C. Perkinson, J. J. Barrow.
- 1862 At Browns: G. W. Nicholson, R. J. Perkinson.
- 1863 At Red Bud - By letter.
- 1867 At Cypress Chapel: Jasper R. Perkinson.
- 1869 At Sharon: C. W. Perkinson, W. M. Wortham, L. T. Watson. (The minutes of this meeting were printed at Ridgeway, N. C. by Thos. M. Hughes, Printer.)
- 1870 At Poplar Springs: Peter F. King, John W. Nicholson.
- 1872 No letter or delegates this year.
- 1873 At Wilson: L. J. Perkinson.
- 1874 At Philadelphia: Rev. L. C. Perkinson, D'Arcy P. Hicks.
- 1875 At Reedy Creek: Rev. L. C. Perkinson, G. W. Nicholson.
- 1876 Not represented at Association.
- 1877 Not represented at Association.
- 1878 At Conoconary - By letter.
- 1879 At Louisburg: W. M. Wortham, John T. Rodwell, Jacob Shearin.
- 1880 At Peach Tree: J. J. Shearin.
- 1881 At Antioch: Rev. L. C. Perkinson.
- 1882 At Littleton: W. E. Bugg, James H. Hicks, Rev. L. C. Perkinson.
- 1883 At Rock Springs: Rev. L. C. Perkinson.
- 1884 At Mt. Zion: Rev. L. C. Perkinson, Robert Carroll.
- 1885 At Wilson: Rev. L. C. Perkinson.
- 1886 Brown's: D. P. Hicks, H. T. Jeffress.
- 1887 Samaria: By letter.
- 1888 Maple Springs: By letter.
- 1889 Gardner's: P. R. Perkinson.

- 1890 Greenville: Rev. L. C. Perkinson.
- 1891 Warrenton: Rev. L. C. Perkinson, P. F. King, P. R. Perkinson.
- 1892 Louisburg: J. H. Hicks, Rev. L. C. Perkinson.
- 1893 Philadelphia: L. E. Hicks, D. P. Hicks.
- 1894 Scotland Neck: By letter.
- 1895 Wilson: D. P. Hicks.
- 1896 Poplar Springs: J. H. Hicks, D. P. Hicks.
- 1897 Stoney Creek: By letter.
- 1898 Weldon: I. L. King.
- 1899 Warren Plains: G. W. Hawks, L. E. Hicks, P. R. Perkinson.
- 1900 Spring Hope: Not represented.
- 1901 Corinth: By letter
- 1902 Washington: J. H. Hicks.
- 1903 Rocky Mount: Rev. J. T. Edmundson.
- 1904 Maple Springs: Rev. I. N. Loftin.
- 1905 Tarboro: By letter
- 1906 Red Oak: R. M. Dunn.
- 1907 Henderson: Not represented.
- 1908 Sandy Creek: W. C. Parker, S. J. Dunn.
- 1909 Sharon: J. H. Hicks, W. C. Parker, Henry White.
- 1910 New Bethel: J. H. Hicks, Willie White.
- 1911 Samaria: No delegates,
- 1912 Red Bud: Rev. K. W. Hogan.
- 1913 Warrenton: P. R. Perkinson, W. R. Coleman.
- 1914 Ephesus: By letter.
- 1915 Louisburg: J. D. White.
- 1916 Philadelphia: R. M. Dunn, B. Dunn, R. I. Mulchi, P. W. Perkinson.
- 1917 Gardner's: W. F. Dunn, C. W. Perkinson.
- 1918 Bunn: By letter.
- 1919 Harris Chapel: C. W. Perkinson, W. F. Dunn.
- 1920 Cedar Rock: W. L. Perkinson.
- 1921 Littleton: W. F. Dunn.
- 1922 No records.
- 1923 Pearce: By letter.
- 1924 Louisburg and Littleton: Not Represented.

ASSOCIATIONAL MESSENGERS

Our church has always been well represented at our associational meetings. Here are the names of the messengers beginning with 1925 and where the Tar River Association met:

- 1925 At Vaughan: Elmo King, Miss Lalla Perkinson, W. H. S. White.
- 1926 At Castalia: R. I. Mulchi, W. L. Perkinson, Horace Hawks, Miss Lena White.
- 1928 At White Level: R. I. Mulchi.
- 1929 At Brown's: W. L. and C. C. Perkinson.
- 1930 At Sandy Creek: F. G. Walker, pastor.
- 1931 At Louisburg: R. I. Mulchi.
- 1932 At Ephesus: Elizabeth Powell, C. H. Thompson, Mrs. W. W. St. Sing.
- 1933 At Gardners: Mrs. M. H. Hayes, C. H. Thompson.
- 1934 At Carey's Chapel: Mrs. T. H. Sledge, C. H. Thompson.
- 1935 At Peach Tree: By letter.
- 1936 At Corinth: Mrs. M. H. Hayes, Sallie Powell, Mrs. W. W. St. Sing, C. H. Thompson served on finance committee.
- 1937 At Bunn: Mrs. W. W. St. Sing, Mrs. T. H. Sledge, Clarence H. Thompson. Clarence H. Thompson also served on Time, Place, and preacher at associational meeting at Bunn Church in 1937 -- Incidentally the Association met at Wise in 1938.
- 1938 At Wise: Clarence H. Thompson.
- 1939 At Philadelphia: Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Adams.
- 1940 At Henderson First: Mrs. M. H. Hayes, C. J. Adams, Clarence Thompson, Miss Lalla Perkinson, Mrs. T. H. Sledge, Walter Perkinson. (Clarence Thompson made annual church report on October 10, 1940.)
- 1941 At Castalia: Mrs. W. W. St. Sing, Clarence H. Thompson.
- 1942 At Bear Swamp: C. J. Adams.
- 1943 At Mount Zion: Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Adams, Walter Perkinson.

- 1944 At Pine Ridge: Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Adams, Walter Perkinson.
- 1945 At Warrenton: Mrs Glenn Perkinson, Mrs. W. G. Thacker.
- 1946 At Peach Tree: C. J. Adams, Mrs. Lena Williams.
- 1947 At Gardners and Red Bud: No messengers.
- 1948 At New Bethel and New Sandy Creek: Mr. W. M. Rochelle.
- 1949 At White Level and Maple Springs: No messenger.
- 1950 At Cypress Chapel: W. T. Bush, Miss Carrie Dunn, Mrs. Elmo King, Mrs. W. M. Rochelle, Mrs. W. G. Thacker.
- 1951 At Pilot and Bear Swamp: Mrs. H. H. Belton, Miss Carrie Dunn, Mrs. Clanton Perkinson, Mrs. W. W. St. Sing, C. H. Thompson, Mrs. Lena Williams.
- 1952 At Samaria and Sulphur Springs: Mrs. Sol Perkinson and Mrs. L. G. White.
- 1953 Tabernacle and Philadelphia: Warren T. Bush.
- 1954 Duke Memorial and Norlina: Mrs. H. H. Belton, Mrs. W. G. Thacker, Mrs. S. A. Tudor, Mrs. Lena Williams.
- 1955 At Carey's Chapel and Wood: Mrs. H. H. Belton, Mrs. Leon Perkinson, Mrs. Roy Perkinson.
- 1956 At Henderson First and Sandy Creek: No messengers.
- 1957 At Louisburg and Littleton: No Messengers.
- 1958 At Bunn and Warrenton: Mrs. H. H. Belton, Mrs. Roy Perkinson, Mrs. Lena Williams. (C. H. Thompson appeared before the association and asked that a permanent file be made of the Minutes of the Tar River Association at Wake Forest College in Wake Forest. He also submitted a letter regarding this that he asked to be read into the minutes to be considered now or later.)

INFORMATION OF GENERAL INTEREST

Elmo King was Secretary of Sunday School in 1925. He was also BYPU President the same year.

Mrs. R. T. Perkinson, Secretary, and Mrs. S. Perkinson, President of BYPU in 1926.

Mrs. Lena White and Mrs. R. I. Mulchi leaders of

Womans Organization 1925.

Miss Lena White served on Executive Committee 1927.
Also served as YWA Counselor and Sunbeam Leader.

Mrs. J. R. Thompson served as WMU President 1927.

Miss Blanche Banks, BYPU President 1928.

Elmo King was BYPU President 1929.

Rom White was Secretary of Sunday School in the
years 1926 and 1927.

Miss Emma Dunn, WMU President 1929.

Miss Elma May Mulchi served as Sun Beam leader
during 1930 to 1932.

Mrs. Roy Perkinson, WMU President 1930.

Mrs. M. H. Hayes, BYPU President 1930.

Miss Sallie Page Perkinson was BYPU President dur-
ing 1931.

Miss Elizabeth Powell, President of BYPU 1932.

Mrs. Russell King, WMU President 1932.

Miss Florrie Perkinson, BTU President 1939.

Miss Carrie Dunn, served as WMS President from
1941 to 1952, a period of eleven years. No other person has
served as long in this work.

Miss Lalla Perkinson, WMS Treasurer for the follow-
ing years: 1941, 1942, 1943.

Miss Geraldine Harris was Training Union Director
for the year 1947.

Mrs. May Sallie Dryden, WMS President 1953 and
1954. Elected to this post again for the years 1956 and 1957.

Mrs. Earl L. Harden was WMS President 1955.

Robert Young, Training Union Director, 1955, 1956,
1957.

Mrs. Mattie W. Perkinson was Choir Director during
1956 and 1957.

Mrs. Manie Riggs, Organist Youth Choir 1958.

Miss Emma Dunn, Church Organist 1958.

Chapter XI

HONOR ROLL - WORLD WAR I

These are the men that went out from our church in World War I, to give their best for God and their country:

- Pvt. Vance H. Saint Sing - Died in Service.
- Cpl. David M. Saint Sing - 660 Aero Sqd. A. E. F.
- Pvt. Leland M. Perkinson - Co. I, 324 Inf.
- Pvt. Claudie F. Paynter - Co. K, 324 Inf.
- 1st. Lt. Robert M. Dunn - Co. H, 46 Div.
- Pvt. Manson E. Myrick - QMC 310 Aux Ront Depot.
- Pvt. Robert T. Adams - FRS 327, died overseas 10-15-1918.
- Pvt. Benjamin H. Thompson, Field Artillery.
- Pvt. Clanton T. Perkinson - Co. B, 324 Inf.
- Pvt. Horace A. Darnell - Army 156 Depot Brigade.
- Pvt. Clements Rivers - Co. D, Eng. Trn. Reg.
- Pfc. Luther M. Paynter - Co. F. 322 Reg. 81 Div.
- Pvt. James D. White - 156 Depot Brigade C. O. P. S.
- Seth Shearin - Medical discharge, early in army career.
- Fred Rivers -
- John Collins and Nick Collins - We believe these two men were members of our church.

We hope we have missed no one that should be mentioned here.

HONOR ROLL - WORLD WAR II

These men were members of our church and served in World War II:

- Pvt. Russell W. Perkinson, U. S. Inf. Killed in combat, buried in France. Memorial Stone at Wise.
- Pvt. Charles B. Prince, Supply Co. 31 FA II Division.

Pfc. Clarence H. Thompson, 2001 Ord. Avn. Co. 8th.
Air Force, U. S. Army.

Pfc. William C. Paschall, 105 Inf. 97 Inf. and 11 Air-
borne.

Thomas Paschall, Co. and Div. unknown.

T/3 Walter J. Paschall, 3rd. Engineers - Special Brigade
S/Sgt. Clanton C. Perkinson, 121 Station Hospital Eng-
land.

Sgt. Ivan W. Young, 36 Armored Inf. Div.

3rd. Class Gunners Mate Calvin G. Young, USNAF 63
Night Fighter Sqdn.

Specialist 2nd. Class Malvin E. Young, Jr.

S/Sgt. Charlie Morton Paynter, Co. K, 334th., 84 Div.

T/5 Arthur Lee Paynter, 42nd. Cal., Troop E. ETO.

Cpl. Charlie Holt Rivers, 106 Div. Co. B. 423 Platoon.

Cpl. McCoy Foster Adams, Co. H. 2nd. BN.

Pfc. Walter C. Paynter, Co. B. 117 Inf. 30 Div. Killed
in Combat.

Pfc. Maynard Calvin Paynter, Btry. C. FA BN.

Chief Petty Officer Luther F. Paynter, USN.

T/4 Frank D. Perkinson, 180 Signal Repair, 5 Army
Hdq.

T/4 Charles T. Rochelle, 325 Air Service Group, 8th.
Air Force.

Pfc. Sterling L. Perkinson, Jr., 908 FAB 83 Division.

Cpl. Laurin Earl Leete, 383rd. Quartermaster Truck Co.,
U. S. Army.

HONOR ROLL - KOREAN WAR

W. Wallace Paynter, Rank and Co. unknown.

Thomas Holt Paynter, Rank and Co. unknown.

Norman H. Newell, Jr., Rank and Co. unknown.

Airman 2nd. Class Thomas Myrick, 301 Bombwing and
Command Sqd.

Sgt. Walter M. Rochelle, Jr., Headquarters & Head-
quarters Battery - 99th. Field Artillery BN, 1st.
Convoy Div.

Chapter XII

TIMES AT WHICH ASSOCIATION HAS MET AT WISE

The Tar River Association met at Sharon Church at Wise in October, 1859, the second year the Church was organized. At that time the Moderator was T. J. Pitchford; G. M. L. Finch, Clerk and Treasurer; and the preacher of the introductory sermon was G. M. L. Finch. At this session a plan to provide financial assistance to aged and infirm ministers and their families was considered and adopted, and a committee was appointed to carry out this plan. This was the first systematic effort made by the Baptist of North Carolina to provide for their aged ministers.

The Tar River Association met again at Sharon in September 1869. T. J. Pitchford was still moderator; G. M. L. Finch, Clerk and Treasurer. The sermon was preached by G. M. Duke.

The next time the Association was in session at Sharon was in 1908 in the new stone building, but the name was not changed to Wise Baptist Church until 1925. At this meeting the moderator was G. M. Duke; Clerk and Treasurer, A. G. Wilcox; Preacher, J. R. Doan.

The last time the Association has met with us was October 5 and 6, of 1938. Now we were called the Wise Baptist Church. J. Edward Allen was moderator; John Edwards. Clerk and Treasurer; Garland A. Hendricks, preacher. James S. Potter, pastor at Wise, led the Association in the singing of "Stand Up for Jesus" and "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name." The devotion was conducted by Theo B. Davis of Zebulon, N. C. Dr. Charles E. Brewer of Raleigh was recognized as a visitor by moderator. Later he delivered an address. Marvin K. Aycock presented the report on Christian Education. The report on Baptist Hospitals was presented by Mrs. C. R. Rodwell, Warrenton, N. C. At this meeting nineteen pastors, two hundred seventy-nine messengers, and

twenty-four visitors registered. The sermon was preached by Rev. Garland Hendricks using the text Mark 3: 14-15.

A sumptuous dinner was served on the grounds by the ladies of the church.

On the closing afternoon October 6, 1938, Dr. W. R. Cullom delivered an address on "The Education that is Needed in Today's World." The report on temperance was presented by our pastor, James S. Potter.

We hope we may have the honor and pleasure of entertaining the Association again in the near future.

Chapter XIII

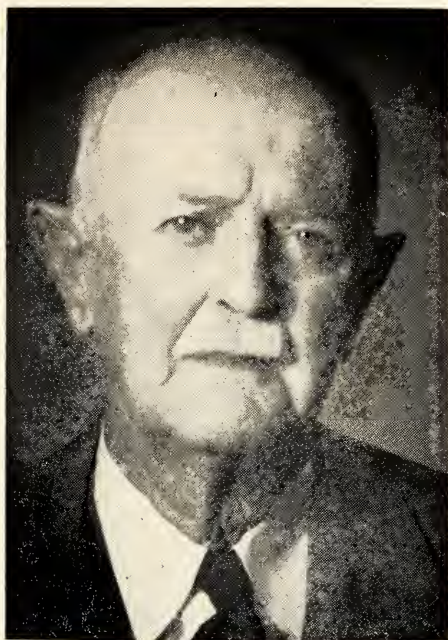
EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

Along in 1953 our Sunday School facilities began to be crowded and we began to consider either building on to our present Church or an additional building. While most of us wanted to build an ell on to the end of the Church, others considered it impractical and more expensive to add to the present building. Some even said it couldn't be done, but four years later, it was proven that an addition was possible.

So in 1954 we built our present Educational Building. I believe the plans were drawn by our pastor at that time, Earl L. Harden. The building was constructed by the Grey-stone Corporation of Henderson, N. C. It consisted of a plain rectangular building, 32 ft. by 62½ ft., made of cement blocks, and faced in a rock composition, called "Rock Face." This building has a kitchenette, and dining room used for Church socials and suppers on occasion. Between times, it serves as a Sunday School classroom. Actually there are several rooms in this building that are used for classrooms. Also, there are two restrooms. These were much needed, for prior to this the Church had only two outside privies. These were not only unsightly but hard to maintain in a decent condition.

This building was finished and equipped in 1954 at an approximate cost of \$15,000.

While we use the building, lots of us feel it is an eyesore to the general appearance and harmony of the Church and that it should never have been built unless it was an addition to the Church and being made of the same kind of granite as the Church. Perhaps in the years to come it may be connected to the Church and veneered in granite to harmonize with the church. We sincerely hope this will happen eventually.



COLEY CLEMMONS PERKINSON

Chapter XIV

COLEY CLEMMONS PERKINSON (Church Treasurer 1924-1951)

Mr. Coley, as he is called by everyone, was born in the Wise Community on June 12, 1875, the first child of Page Ransom Perkinson and Sallie Coleman Perkinson. Early in life he became a lifelong member of Sharon and Wise Baptist Church.

He was married to Sallie White on October 25, 1899 at the bride's home near Reavis Mill. It has been sometimes called the Snap White Place. The pastor of Jerusalem Church, Preacher Daley, performed the ceremony.

To this union the following children were born: Roy, Manie, Page, and Clanton. Mr. Coley's father was clerk and

treasurer of our church for fifty years, as I have previously mentioned, so it was only natural that he, Mr. Coley, would find his place in his church work. So in 1924 he became Treasurer and served in this capacity until 1951, at which time his youngest son Clanton became, and at this time is still, the Treasurer of our Church.

Mr. Coley's period of service as Treasurer, twenty-seven years, has only been surpassed by one person, his father.

Personally, I've never known Mr. Coley to teach a Sunday School Class, or have a great deal to say about any phase of church work, but somehow, you always knew he was deeply interested in this work, and rarely missed a Sunday service unless he was sick or had sickness in his family. He is always generous in his donations to Church and Sunday School. To sum it all up in a few words, he has been faithful for many years in service to Sharon and Wise Baptist Church.

CLERKS OF OUR CHURCH

Our first clerk was R. J. Perkinson who served from 1858 to 1868. Mr. Perkinson was succeeded by W. R. Coleman who held this office until 1878 or a period of ten years.

Our next clerk was P. R. Perkinson who served well from 1878 until 1917 -- The longest time any clerk has served in our church, about thirty-nine years. He also served as Secretary of Sunday School in 1915.

C. W. Perkinson was clerk of church from 1917 until 1923. He also served as Sunday School Superintendent for part of three years.

Mr. W. F. Dunn became the clerk for one year 1924.

In 1925 May Sallie Perkinson, the daughter of C. W. Perkinson, became our clerk for one year.

Beginning the year of 1926, Mrs. Cameron Michael became our clerk and served until 1931.

Miss Emma Dunn has been our Clerk since 1932 until the present time. A period of twenty-six years -- only one clerk has served longer -- P. R. Perkinson.

Chapter XV

OUR CEMETERY

It seems almost as if our cemetery was never destined for a burying ground. If it had been, it does not seem that Rev. Perkinson, who gave the land for the church for the life of it, would have neglected to remove that clause from the deed that caused it to revert to his heirs at the removal of the church to the village. And yet his infant daughter Mary was the second body buried there July 31, 1872 -- the first person buried was Mike Paschal, date unknown as time has erased the dates from a hand hewn stone at his grave.

As time went on, age and disease took their toll, and more and more of our members were laid to rest under the shade of the oaks that stood around the church. Families began their own family plots beginning across the back of the church and the east side. After the removal of the church to Wise, more space was available and graves are now where the old church stood.

During the depression years, 1931 and 1932, one of the WPA projects of this community was the beautification of our cemetery. A wall of native stone was erected around the South and East side, and along each side of the front or main drive with stone columns on each side at the entrance. This particular part of the work was under the supervision of Mr. Willie Ball. The stone was given by Mr. Horace Hawks from a hill near my home that has always been called Rocky Hill. These stones are of unusual color, and formation, and the hill has been checked at one time by a geologist looking for valuable mineral deposits. Some of the stones were very large, and had to be broken up in pieces, so that they could be moved to Wise, and then placed in position in the wall. Only mules and wagons were used for transporting them and no power equipment at all was used.

Mr. Elmo King had charge of the tree planting detail.

Small cedars were dug up anywhere they could be found, that is of course with the consent of the owners. These were brought to the cemetery, and replanted around the South and East side, just inside the stone wall. After these had grown for a year or two, they were clipped like ornamental bushes. I remember that my brother Jasper and I pruned these trees the first time. Now after twenty-five or six years they are still pruned regularly and are very pretty. Some dogwood, and crepe myrtle has been added from time to time. Also there are many other evergreens, and flowering plants that enhance the beauty of this God's acre.

As with all things, time began to tell on the old oaks, that had stood so long around Old Sharon. Many had become diseased with dead and decaying limbs, that were endangering the tombstones around and under them. So it became necessary to begin to remove them. This began along in 1938 and was finished in 1941. This changed the appearance of the grounds and took some getting used to, but the grass grew better, on account of more sunshine, and there was no more danger to the memorial stones.

Early in 1938 the fact was brought to the attention of the church, that we did not own the land where so many of our loved ones were laid to rest. It seems to have come about by the oversight of Luther Perkinson, the youngest son of Preacher Perkinson's first marriage, who in selling a parcel of land adjoining the cemetery on the North side, found out too late, he was actually selling his parents graves. Then he appealed to Mr. C. C. Perknison to buy this land at any price, and he would make it right with him as he did not like the idea of selling the cemetery in which his people were buried. At this time the land had reverted to the heirs of Preacher Perkinson, as the church had been moved, and of course it forfeited the deed.

The sale took place at the Court House in Warrenton, September 9, 1938. The bidding was spirited and the price went up and up. Walter L. Perkinson finally bought the tract of land adjoining the cemetery and the cemetery for \$460.00. And Luther had no understanding with Walter, and the church cemetery no longer belonged to the church -- Then

rumors began to circulate. The cemetery was to be parceled out in lots, each family had to pay for the place their loved ones now occupied, and so on and on. New lots were to be staked off and sold as they were needed. There was probably very little truth, if any in all this, but the leaders of the church knew it could happen, so they took steps to prevent this. Mr. W. L. Perkinson agreed to let the church have the cemetery for \$50.00. This transaction took place on 9-26-1938 with the property being deeded to the Trustees of Wise Baptist Church, forever. The trustees at this time were J. H. Hicks, Rom White, Horace Hawks, W. M. Rochelle, and Roy Perkinson. The records of this deed may be found in Warren County records in the Court House in Warrenton, Book 144, Page 483.

Now we had the cemetery all paid for, we felt there would be no more complication and all would be smooth-sailing, but not so. On August 13, 1942, W. Jackson Paschall was buried on the Western extremity of our cemetery, very near the line, in fact the owner claimed the grave was a foot over on his side. Actually this was not true, but he felt it was, and was properly upset about it, so it went pro and con for a while, in fact over a year. Then on December 21 of 1943, Freddie L. Hicks stepped into the breach. He suggested to the owner, since he and his brother Tasker had no personal lots in which to bury their dead, that he would like to buy some land on the Western side of the cemetery. The owner Mr. W. L. Perkinson accepted the offer and sold F. L. Hicks a lot 50 feet by 249 feet across the Western side of our cemetery. This parcel of land is bisected by a driveway running east to west. Freddie very generously gave consent for the church to use the property on the south side of the drive to use for general burial purposes, but reserved the Northern side for his and Tasker's use. Mr. Perkinson accepted \$100.00 for this piece of land. The records may be found in Warrenton at the Court House, Book 164, page 178.

During the years since we have been trying to improve our cemetery, we have had many committees, sometimes only one or two; lately, several. The author Clarence H. Thompson remembers working on this project as early as

1934, along with Mr. M. H. Hayes and Miss Carrie Dunn.

Horace Hawks followed next to take charge of the cemetery. Since Horace and I had our own help we were allowed to use it. All along Mr. and Mrs. Hayes were active, in fact Mr. Hayes was probably the first person to see the possibilities of making our cemetery a better place in which to rest for eternity. Miss Carrie Dunn has never lagged in her efforts for this either. We have always been able to depend on Miss Carrie to come through on this project.

Other Committees that have served at different and numerous times have included Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Hayes, C. H. Thompson, Horace Hawks, Miss India Hawks, Leon Perkinson, Freddie L. Hicks, Mrs. Wiley Mitchell (Sallie Page), Mr. Coley Perkinson. In 1950 the Committee was composed of Leon Perkinson, Mrs. Wiley Mitchell, Mr. Coley Perkinson, F. D. Hicks, Horace Hawks, Mrs. Walter Thacker, and Mrs. May Sallie Dryden. Our present Cemetery Committee is composed of many of the 1950 Committee plus Mrs. Sol Perkinson, Joe Kimball, Carl Perkinson. Then too, there has been an agreement that the current pastor shall serve as president on this group.

Mrs. Sam Tudor at her death, April 19, 1957, was on this committee as flower planting director. She left a bequest of \$1,000.00 to maintain her lot, the Hayes and Thacker lot, and the rest to be used in the general upkeep of the cemetery. We have had only one other bequest, that of Dr. Gwynn Nicholson for \$225.00 to maintain his lot and to help in the beautification of the cemetery. Dr. Nicholson is the son of Gidd W. Nicholson one of the Grantees of Old Sharon Church. He, Dr. Nicholson, still keeps and maintain a burial plot here.

On December 1, 1948, Mr. Lonnie Thompson, a state employed surveyor, surveyed our cemetery, all of the family plots were numbered and named. These were transcribed to a scaled map, drive and walkways were laid out, most of the graves were indentified. Now it is very simple and easy to find any graves here. He would accept no money for his services, but said we might give his wife \$25.00, which we did. The Commtttee in charge at this time were C. C. Perkinson,

President; Leon W. Perkinson, Vice-President; M. H. Hayes, Secretary; Miss Carrie Dunn, Treasurer.

Through the years, I might mention Freddie Hicks has always been helpful, whether on the committee or not, with time, money and advice. Sallie Page, Mrs. Wiley Mitchell, has also been a willing worker.

It has been the custom in the past to set an annual day for a fund drive. Solicitors went out and asked for funds to maintain our cemetery. People usually welcomed us and helped as best they could. This year, 1958, we plan to change to a different system. We will send cards or letters telling the people who have loved ones buried here what we need and what we expect of them individually. We trust it will work.

Our sexton since 1936 has been mostly Robert Monague, a colored gentleman -- Mrs. Hayes' caretaker. He has worked well and faithfully, and the results he has achieved through his labors has been most satisfactory.

This is a copy of annual letter to members to help in the care of their cemetery. We have to depend almost entirely on donations to care for it.

Wise, N. C.
February, 1959

Dear Friend:

Another year has passed and it is now time for our annual drive. We hope you have been pleased with the work of the cemetery committee and we wish to express our appreciation and thanks to all who cooperated and contributed in making this possible. Largely through the planning, efforts and supervision of the committee the cemetery has kept in splendid condition. However, our funds are now very low and we are asking your support and cooperation. We trust your donation now and the future will (someday) result in the permanent care of all plots. The committee will be glad to receive your constructive criticism and helpful suggestions at any time. A resolution was passed at the annual meeting Sunday, February 8, 1959 that owners of plots, please **not** place any corner stones above the ground that will interfere

with the mower or place sand on graves. Your cooperation, in this will be greatly appreciated.

Please send your check to Mrs. M. S. Dryden, Wise N. C.

Thanking you in advance for your contribution, we are

Yours truly,

C. C. Perkinson, President
Mrs. Ruby Perkinson, Secretary
Mrs. M. S. Dryden, Treasurer

(MAP OF CEMETERY BETWEEN BACK PAGE AND COVER)

Chapter XVI

PROGRESS IN CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

I would like to sum up our progress during the past hundred years showing how our membership and the value of our church property has increased.

Our church began in 1858 with thirty-eight white members and seven colored members. As has been previously mentioned, there were no colored churches, that they might attend in this locality, and the members of our church were glad to give them the opportunity to worship with us. Some of the best colored families, now living here were former members of our church.

In 1958 our total membership was 313. Through the years, we have normally lost a few of our members by death, and moving to other churches. We have also gained some by baptism and by letters from other churches. Altogether I think our growth in this field is phenomenal.

The earliest records available, 1908 lists our church property at \$6,000, the year in which our new church was built. This low estimate was due to the low price of material and labor. Even then this estimate of our church property was too low. Now fifty years later the value of our church property including our Educational Building is in excess of \$40,000. It is true we still owe money on the renovation of our church in 1957 and 1958, but it will eventually be cleared.

During the past hundred years our church membership has built two churches and an Educational Building at a cost of \$15,000 for building and equipment. Original church (Sharon) only a few hundred dollars. New stone church at about \$6,000 in 1908. Renovating in 1957 and 1958 approximately \$22,000 for present church. So I think we are making definite progress in this field of endeavor. At present we do not own our parsonage, but rent it from Mr. Coley Perkin-

son. I'm sure our next step will be to obtain a parsonage for our church.

Fifty years ago we only had a part-time pastor, paying about \$600.00 a year, since we have shared our pastors with Gardner's, Norlina, and Warrenton Baptist Churches.

Now we have a full time pastor paying him \$2,600 annually. So we are justly proud of our work in this field.

Our Sunday School began about 1872 with only a few members in a few classes. There was no special Sunday School material issued by the Baptist Sunday School Board in those days. Nevertheless this crude beginning laid the foundation for a wonderful Sunday School in our church today. At present we have members in most of the classes for Sunday School enrollment. Our grand total enrollment is 174 with an average attendance of 68 in 1958. This could be better of course, but we are proud of our progress in all phases of church work through the years.

We have an active Woman's Missionary Union with two units, and a membership enrollment of thirty-three members. We also have a Girls' Auxiliary, Young Women's Auxiliary, and a Sunbeam Unit in our church. Mrs. M. S. Dryden is president of our W. M. S. at present (1959).

Our total gifts to all purposes in 1958 were \$8,598.00, and our grand total for local expenses in 1958 were \$19,153.00, and a grand total of \$19,895.00 for all purposes. We have moved forward a little ways up in the past. In the future, God willing, we shall march on trying to do our best to reach perfection as near as we possibly can.

The first records of a Woman's Missionary Society at Wise was in 1913. At this time the church sent delegates to the Ninth Annual meeting held in Warrenton. The delegates were Miss Carrie B. Dunn, Miss Lena White, and Miss Mattie Hicks. Mrs. W. W. Parker of Henderson was elected President, Mrs. M. H. Hayes 2nd. Vice President, Miss Lena White 3rd. Vice President. In 1916 through 1920 Miss Lena White was WMS President of Wise Church, Miss Carrie Dunn was Sunbeam President, Miss Mary Perkinson was Sunbeam President in 1917. This group still functioned years later (1958).

Mrs. R. I. Mulchi was WMS President in 1922 and 1923; YWA's and Sunbeams, Miss Lena White.

PROPOSED WISE BAPTIST CHURCH BUDGET: 1959-1960

LOCAL EXPENDITURES

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Pastor's Salary | \$ 65.00 | \$281.66 | \$3,380.00 |
| Pastor's Utilities | 10.00 | 43.33 | 520.00 |
| Pastor's Retirement | 2.88 | 12.50 | 150.00 |
| Janitor's Salary | 5.00 | 20.00 | 240.00 |
| Church Utilities | 4.81 | 20.83 | 250.00 |
| Literature | 3.85 | 16.67 | 200.00 |
| "Charity & Children | .67 | 2.75 | 35.00 |
| Music Supplies | .23 | 1.00 | 12.00 |
| Office Supplies | .38 | 1.67 | 20.00 |
| V. B. S. | .96 | 4.17 | 50.00 |
| Revival Expenses | 3.37 | 14.58 | 175.00 |
| Benevolences | 1.92 | 8.33 | 100.00 |
| Maintainance | 1.92 | 8.33 | 100.00 |
| Insurance | 1.18 | 5.13 | 61.60 |
| Miscellaneous | .96 | 4.17 | 50.00 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| TOTAL | 103.13 | 445.12 | 5,343.60 |
| Building Fund | 72.12 | 312.50 | 3,750.00 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| GRAND TOTAL LOCAL | 175.25 | 757.62 | 9,093.60 |
| MISSIONS: | | | |
| W. R. Cullom Association | 1.92 | 8.33 | 100.00 |
| | 10.27 | 44.51 | 534.36 |
| Cooperative Program | | | |
| TOTAL MISSIONS | 12.19 | 52.84 | 634.36 |
| Total Local Expenditures | 175.25 | 757.62 | 9,093.60 |
| Total Missions | 12.19 | 52.84 | 634.36 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$187.44 | \$810.46 | \$9,727.96 |

This budget represents our goals for the coming year. It is a guide that determines how much we can or cannot do. It is, in fact, a detailed outline of the church program. The

budget is well within reach of our capabilities and whether or not it is attained will be dependent upon our faithfulness as stewards before God. Remember, an offering each Sunday to your church is an investment in the Kingdom of Christ.

This budget was adopted wholeheartly by members on Sunday October 4, 1959. It shows a great deal of progress in the past one hundred years.

Chapter XVII

ROLL WISE BAPTIST CHURCH

February 1959

Rev. A. T. Ayscue, Pastor

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| ADAMS | COX | HANSEN |
| C. J. | Mrs. Richard | Mrs. A. R. |
| Mrs. C. J. | DANIEL | Mr. A. R. |
| Hubert | Mrs. V. J. | HANDOE |
| AYSCUE | DARNELL | Mrs. Lucy P. |
| Milton | Sue | HARDEN |
| Mrs. Lois Young | Mrs. Jim | Rev. Earl |
| ALLGOOD | Holt | Mrs. Earl |
| Mrs. Ben | Ella | HARRIS |
| BALL | DAVIS | Frances |
| Mrs. John | Mrs. Joe | W. D. |
| Carl | Mrs. Lessie | HARRIS |
| BARTHLOMEW | DICKERSON | Mrs. Ruby S. |
| Emma Gray | E. C. | HARTLEY |
| BELTON | DOWELL | Mrs. Vernon |
| Mrs. H. H. | Clyde | HAWKS |
| BENDER | DRYDEN | Horace |
| Mrs. Arnold | Mrs. M. S. | Mrs. Horace |
| BOSWELL | DUNN | Bill |
| Mrs. Virgie | Carrie B. | Mrs. Bill |
| BRYANT | Emma L. | Rose |
| Mrs. Harold | R. M. | HICKS |
| Kenneth | EARLY | Jim |
| Mary Ruth | Mrs. M. J. | Tasker |
| CLEATON | ELAM | Everette |
| Milo | Mrs. Bob | Freddie L. |
| CHAMPION | ENDECOTT | Florence |
| George | Mrs. Hattie P. | Lewis |
| COLLIER | FELTS | Fred, Jr. |
| Mrs. Earnest | Ivy | Mrs. Roy |
| COLLINS | Horace | William |
| Clifton | John Thomas | Mrs. William |
| Mrs. Clifton | GRAY | Freddie Gray |
| COMER | Mrs. Shirley P. | Helen |
| Woodrow | GRIFFITH | Nellie |
| Mrs. Woodrow | Mrs. Pearl B. | Mrs. Horace K. |
| Bobbie | | |

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| HIGHT | MEADER | Mrs. Lillian |
| Morgan | Edith | Ralph |
| Mrs. Morgan | MELANDRY | Victor |
| HOLMES | Mrs. Elma May | Priscilla |
| Mrs. Emma | MILLER | Ovell |
| HORTON | Mrs. Joyce | Grover |
| Mrs. Jake | MITCHELL | Harvey |
| JONES | Mrs. Wiley | Norman |
| Mrs. Ola St. Sing | MOODY | Mrs. Norman |
| Mrs. Albert | Earnest | Claude, Sr. |
| John | Janet | Mrs. Claude, Sr. |
| JOHNSON | Elizabeth | Claude, Jr. |
| Mrs. Sidney | MOSS | Mrs. Claude, Jr. |
| JORDAN | Mrs. W. H. | Luther, Sr. |
| Claude, Sr. | MUNN | Mrs. Luther, Sr. |
| Mrs. Lucille K. | Mrs. Howard F. | Wilbur |
| Claude, Jr. | Russell | Johnny W. |
| KEMPSON | Irving | Mrs. Johnny W. |
| Sarah Sue | Mrs. Irving | Herbert |
| Alvin | Edward | PEACH |
| KING | Mrs. Edward | Mrs. Gladys |
| Johnnie | Helen | PERKINSON |
| Mrs. Johnnie | Eugene | W. L. |
| I. L. | MYRICK | C. C. |
| Mrs. Boyd | Mrs. Manson | Mrs. C. C. |
| Florence | Thomas | Page |
| Anne | NICHOLSON | Patricia |
| KINSLEY | Gray | Clanton C. |
| Mrs. Elizabeth P. | NORRIS | Mrs. Clanton C. |
| KIMBALL | Mrs. Velma M. | Clanton T. |
| Joe | PASCHALL | Jasper |
| Mrs. Joe | Walter | Rachel Ann |
| Alton | Mrs. Jack | Mrs. Roy |
| Thelma | William C. | Roy Irving |
| KIMBALL | James | Coley, Jr. |
| Mrs. T. D. | PAYNTER | Carl |
| Alvis | Raymond | William J. |
| George | M. A. | Holt |
| Boyle | Mrs. M. A. | O. B. |
| Luther | Leonard | Leon |
| Mrs. Luther | Mrs. Leonard | Mrs. Leon |
| Johnnie | Janet | Charles |
| LEETE | Calvin | Frank |
| Charlie | Mrs. Calvin | Lucy |
| Robbie | Luther (Navy) | Nat |
| Laurin | Mrs. Luther | Mrs. Nat |
| LONG | J. T. | Sol |
| Mrs. Roy | Mrs. J. T. | Mrs. Sol |
| Mabry | Loretta | Mrs. Sterling |
| Geraldine | Lillian | Thomas Macon |

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Jimmy Taylor | Thomas | Hal, Sr. |
| Lalla Rose | SAMMONS | Mrs. Hal |
| PRINCE | Mrs. Carlton | Hal, Jr. |
| Mrs. Mattie H. | SATTERWHITE | WHITTIMORE |
| Herbert | Mrs. Hunter, Sr. | John |
| Betty Jane | Hunter, Jr. | WILLIS |
| Bernard | SHEARIN | James, Sr. |
| POWELL | Mrs. Marvern | Mrs. James |
| Delma | R. Seth | Billie Sue |
| Otis | Mrs. Seth | Mrs. James, Jr. |
| Mrs. Otis | Robert | WILLIAMS |
| Eleanor Mustian | George | Robert |
| RIGGAN | Mrs. George | Mrs. R. A. |
| Mrs. James | Dan | Cliffie |
| RIGGS | Horace | WILSON |
| Mrs. Manie | SPAIN | Mrs. John |
| RIVERS | Mary Brown | WYNN |
| Richard | ST. SING | Roy |
| Mrs. Richard | Mrs. W. W. | YOUNG |
| Holt | SLATER | Malvern |
| Mrs. Holt | Gloria | Mrs. Malvern |
| Kennedy | SIKES | Edward |
| Earnest | Mr. Connie | Calvin |
| Benjamin | THACKER | Mrs. Calvin |
| Mrs. Benjamin | Mrs. W. G. | Mrs. Ollie |
| Fred | THOMPSON | Ollie (Metus) Jr. |
| Alvis | Clarence H. | Thomas |
| ROCHELLE | VAUGHAN | Mrs. Thomas |
| W. M. | Mrs. Ellis | Ivan |
| Mrs. W. M. | WALL | Mrs. Ivan |
| Charles | Mrs. Jesse | Mrs. Willie |
| Walter M. | WALKER | Clarence |
| SALMON | Lottie Mae | Mrs. Clarence |
| Ollie | Betty Lou | Jimmy |
| Mrs. Ollie | WHITE | Eugene |
| Lillian | Mrs. Lewis | Mrs. Eugene |
| Buck | William Ira | Roy |
| John | Rom | Thomas |
| Evelyn | Mrs. Rom | Robert |
| Jim | Faye | Mrs. Robert |
| Mrs. Grady | Willie | Everette |
| Katy Ann | Julius Henry | Jackie |
| Carmelita | Bobby | Bobbie |
| | | Harry |

Chapter XVIII

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND ASSISTANTS AND OTHER OFFICERS

James H. Hicks was probably our first Sunday School Superintendent with our Sunday School beginning in 1872. He served in this office through 1882.

He was succeeded in 1883 by Rev. L. C. Perkinson as Superintendent. He served only one year at this time. In 1884, T. R. Perkinson (Preacher Perkinson's son Tommie) served in this capacity. Preacher L. C. Perkinson returned as Sunday School Superintendent in 1885. Jas H. Hicks was superintendent again in 1886 and 1887. Through 1891, N. G. Perkinson was Sunday School Superintendent at Sharon. Charles Wesley Perkinson became Sunday School Superintendent in 1891 followed by J. H. Hicks again in 1892.

T. R. Perkinson returned as our Sunday School Superintendent in 1893 after an absence of nine years from this position.

He was followed by J. H. Hicks in 1894 and L. E. Hicks in 1895. N. G. Perkinson returned to this place in church work in 1896 to be followed by L. E. Hicks who served 1897 to 1903. Then J. H. Hicks became Superintendent again until 1905. Mr. W. O. Dunn was our next Superintendent. He served until 1908, the year of his death. W. C. Parker, Jr. served in 1908 as head of our Sunday School. C. W. Perkinson was Superintendent 1909 to 1913. He was succeeded by Vance H. Saint Sing who held this position until 1917 at which time he was drafted into the Army. He died in France. Mr. Coley Perkinson served as Sunday School Secretary 1918 and 1919.

C. Wesley Perkinson was our next Sunday School Superintendent, holding this place until 1924, the year of his death.

Rufus I. Mulchi served from 1925 to 1933. During this

period C. H. Thompson served as program supervisor for Sunday School.

W. M. Rochelle succeeded Mr. Mulchi and served from 1934 to 1946. His assistant was C. H. Thompson until 1941 at which time he was drafted into military service. Then Mr. C. J. Adams became Assistant Superintendent to Mr. Rochelle.

In 1947 Elmo King became Superintendent for two years (1947-48).

Our present Sunday School Superintendent began his duties in 1949 and has served nine years already (1949-1958). During 1953 and 1954 William (Bill) Hawks was his assistant.

At the present time Frank Perkinson is the Assistant Superintendent of our Sunday School.

Several years ago James D. White was Secretary of Sunday School.

Later his brother W. Rom White was also Secretary during 1926 and 1927.

Glenn Perkinson has served also as Secretary for many years, about 12 years, I believe.

Our present Secretary is Carl Perkinson. He has held this office for the past six years.

DEACONS OF OUR CHURCH

The following list is only a partial list of our deacons. Some of these served in the late 1800's. Our list is fairly complete for the last forty or fifty years. Many of these men have served in this capacity for many years as we use a rotating system in the election of our deacons. They serve four years at first, then they are off for one or more years, or until re-elected to this post of service.

We have only one honorary life deacon at present, Mr. Walter L. Perkinson. But at the next deacons' election, Mr. Coley C. Perkinson will be elected to this post. He has served many years as a deacon.

Our earliest deacons were the following men: Rev.

L. C. Perkinson, James Hicks, N. G. Perkinson, Hillary Jeffress, Armstead King.

These men followed much later: W. O. Dunn, Coley C. Perkinson, Jimmie White, Willie White, C. Weseley Perkinson, R. I. Mulchi, Walter Perkinson, Clarence Adams, Charlie Ball, W. C. Parker, Sr., W. C. Parker, Jr., Frank Dunn, T. H. Sledge, Cameron Michael, Elmo King, W. M. Rochelle, Hubert Adams.

More recent and latest Deacons: Horace Hawks, Joe Kimball, Leon Perkinson, Clanton C. Perkinson, Bill Hawks, Robert Young, W. Rom White, Frank Perkinson, Jimmy Young, Everette Hicks, C. H. Thompson.

HILLARY THOMAS JEFFRESS - CHURCH LEADER AND DEACON

Mr. Jeffress was born in Lunenburg County, Va., January 9, 1826, and grew to manhood there.

On Nov. 18, 1849, he married Miss Frances Susan Scott also of Lunenburg County, Va.

He and his brother James fought in the Civil War. James was killed at Fort Donelson in Tennessee. After the War, he returned home and raised a large family of two boys and six girls. The sons were named James Hillary and Ethelbert Jeffress. The daughters were namely Nannie E., Alice Louise, Roberta Scott, Emma Susan, Maggie Weston, and Fannie Pettus.

Prior to the War, Hillary Jeffress had moved from Lunenburg County to Mecklenburg County, Va. The old home site is near the home of Richard F. Jeffress of Palmer Springs, Va. He just possibly may have brought his bride there from Lunenburg County in 1849.

As there was no Baptist church in that vicinity, Mr. and Mrs. Jeffress came to Wise to Old Sharon Church. They may have even been charter members. There are no records to prove or disprove this theory. But it is well known that they were faithful workers in the church. It is said that at one time Hillary Jeffress did more to support the church financially than any person in the entire membership. He

was also a leader in the church work, and at one time was a deacon.

The family Court of Arms hangs on the wall of Richard F. Jeffress, a grandson of Hillary, near Palmer Springs, Va. It has this Latin inscription on it, "Facrecte Et Niltine" -- Translated meaning "Do Good and Have no Fear". Hillary must have used this for a motto for daily living and with his dealings with his fellowmen. H. T. Jeffress served as Associational Delegate to Browns Church 1886. Hillary T. Jeffress died April 11, 1895 and was buried in the family burying ground just east of Richard Jeffress home. At the death of his wife, Frances Susan, she was also laid to rest there. These two graves are enclosed in a metal fence and have markers that are still legible.

Only one of Hillary's sons married, James Hillary Jeffress. He reared a family of two sons and three daughters. One of his sons, Richard Fleming Jeffress, lives in the old home of his father. Of course it has been much modernized, and is very pretty and I'm sure comfortable.

Leslie Thomas Jeffress died a few years ago. James Hillary's three daughters are still living, all are married. Virginia Watson Jeffress married Charles Pryor Allen of Warrenton, N. C. Fannie Scott Jeffress married William Brodie Daniels of Henderson, N. C. Rowena Pryor Jeffress lives in South Hill, Va. and is married to George Weston Clairborne.

James was never the member of any church but his wife, along with a few others, organized and began the first Baptist church at Palmer Springs. This was Bethesda and is still the only Baptist church there.

This sketch of the life of Hillary Thomas Jeffress was made possible by the aid of Mrs. C. Pryor Allen of Warrenton, N. C. and Mrs. Richard Fleming Jeffress of Palmer Springs, Va., who was Miss Elise Vaughan of Franklin, Va. before she was married. Both are wonderful people and they have been so helpful in this work.

Chapter XIX

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

I cannot close this work without mentioning our Sunday School teachers because I personally feel like most of our church progress, or at least most of our new members have come out of our Sunday School. This is, and was due mostly to the Christian influence brought to bear on the pupils of our classes by good teachers working and studying hard to bring to them the best thoughts in the lessons each Sunday. The results have been magnificent through the years and much credit is due to our teachers. I will not attempt to tell the classes, or the length of time each teacher taught, for in many cases it was only terminated by death, to our great loss. So I simply state here that these people, men and women, and sometimes younger men and women labored faithful in the cause in our Sunday School work. We cannot forget them, or praise them enough for their untiring efforts through the years:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mr. William O. Dunn | Mrs. L. W. Perkinson |
| Mr. George H. Hawks | Mr. T. H. Sledge |
| Mr. James H. Hicks | Mrs. T. H. Sledge |
| Mr. W. C. Parker, Sr. | Mrs. Lena Williams |
| Mrs. C. W. Fleming | Mrs. W. W. St. Sing |
| Mrs. Annie Oliver Coleman | Mrs. Roy Perkinson |
| Mr. Malvern H. Hayes | Miss Sallie Page Perkinson |
| Mrs. Malvern H. Hayes | Mr. H. Evans Coleman |
| Mr. Rufus I. Mulchi | Mr. Clarence H. Thompson |
| Mrs. Rufus I. Mulchi | Mr. Elmore King |
| Mrs. Lewis White | Mrs. May Sallie Dryden |
| Mrs. Walter Thacker | Mr. Robert Young |
| Miss Emma Dunn | Mrs. Robert Young |
| Miss Carrie Dunn | Miss Malissa Hicks |
| Miss Elizabeth Powell | Miss Ertha Umberger |

Miss Gladys Harris
Mr. Frank Dunn
Mr. Bob Dunn
Mrs. Selma Perkinson
Mrs. Lizzie Tudor

Miss Blanche Banks
Miss Bettie Jane Prince
Mrs. E. E. Ballard
Mrs. F. G. Walker
Mrs. Calvin Young
Mrs. W. F. Dunn

Chapter XX

THE REMODELING OF WISE BAPTIST CHURCH

Along in April 1957 we vacated our church, and turned it over to a construction crew, under the direction of Oscar King, Mr. Bob Dunn and Pastor E. E. Ballard. The back part of the church was removed and that portion of the building was lengthened to include a baptistry, and several Sunday school rooms, all of it being finished in stone to match the original building. New hardwood floors were put in the main auditorium, with paneling around the walls in matched hardwood, up to about waist high, the remainder of the walls were plastered in a pleasing color. All of the sliding panels of the old Sunday school classrooms were removed making the main part of the building much larger and much more enjoyable to viewers and listeners.

New lighting fixtures of a distinctive design were installed to add to the beauty of this place of worship.

In the meantime, all of the pews and church furniture had been sent to a furniture factory in Winston-Salem to be refinished. Later they were returned very well done.

A new tiled baptistry was made in back of a modern choir. To add to this a new Hammond electric organ was purchased to add to the enjoyment of the church music.

Our pulpit and rostrum were completely renovated to add to the general appearance of our main auditorium. In all these improvements worked for good, and the results were very pleasing to all concerned.

After worshiping in the public school building and our educational building for about thirteen months, on Sunday, May the fourth, we had our first service in our re-newed church building. We had looked forward to this day, and had proclaimed it as a Home Coming Day. Many former members, and visitors returned for this occasion. A special offer-

ing was taken, and more than a thousand dollars was given to apply on the building fund.

The Home Coming sermon was preached by Rev. John C. Gill, Jr. of Chowan College. A brief resume of his message is included here:

OUR TRUST AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Scripture: Romans 1:16; Corinthians 5:20; Romans 13:11-14; John 9:4.

INTRODUCTION

"These lovely buildings are not ends in themselves. You who live and work and serve and worship here, have erected them because God has given you a sacred trust and these buildings will better enable you to carry out the responsibilities which that sacred trust imposes upon you.

THE TRUST

Romans 1:16 -- "I am not ashamed (I am proud) of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one the believeth."

The precious treasure of the Gospel is our sacred trust. But what exactly is the Gospel? It is the good news that in Christ, God Himself came to earth and provided for man that which man desperately needed, but could not accomplish for himself. In Christ, God came in human form and got his shoulder under man's burden of sin and slugged it out with evil on the cross. The Gospel is the good news that God has acted in human history for man's salvation. Redemption is available. And man can now appropriate it by his living, active faith.

THE THREEFOLD RESPONSIBILITY

1. The responsibility to SAY something about the power of God to change men's lives; the responsibility to bear witness to the good news of the Gospel. II Corinthians 5:20 is our imperative -- "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ."

2. The responsibility to BE something for the sake of the Gospel. In Romans 13:11-14, Paul appealed to their sense of crisis as a motive for right conduct. "Because you know what this present crisis means (he said), you know it is time

to cast off the works of darkness." In this crucial, crisis time in which we live, when intelligent men are testing the reality of the Gospel by the faithfulness of those of us who claim to possess it, we must BE something for the sake of the Gospel.

3. The responsibility to DO something in the name of Him who is the author of the Gospel. John 9:4 -- "We must work the works of Him to whom we belong while it is day." The only kind of faith which the New Testament describes as saving faith is a faith that issues in good works. True believers are never mere talkers. Always, Christian love is a matter of works as well as of words.

CONCLUSION

We hold a precious trust in the Gospel of the Son of God and we hold it in a crucial, crisis day in the history of mankind. But what an exciting day it is to SAY something about the power of the Gospel, to BE something for the sake of that Gospel, to DO something in the name of Him who is the author of the Gospel, even Christ, the Living Lord, to whom be glory and honor, majesty and power, world without end. Amen."

A bountiful dinner was served on the church grounds that was enjoyed by all. This was really a red letter day for our church. After thirteen months, we were back in our house of worship. We knew of course we had spent \$20,798.07 for repairs. We had bought a new electric organ, most of which was not paid for, but we liked what we saw and had, and knew we were going to pay for it, and those that come after us would like it as well as we did, and say we had built wisely. Yes, our Church is prettier and more practical now than it has ever been before.

At the conclusion of the work on our Church, Mrs. James W. Darnell had an illuminated bulletin board erected in our Church yard at a cost of \$214.00. This was made of the same granite stone of which the Church was constructed and is in perfect harmony with the rest of the building. This was erected and given in memory of her late husband James W. Darnell, known to all as Jim.

Chapter XXI

LIST OF PASTORS AND YEARS OF SERVICE FOLLOWED BY LIFE SKETCHES IN ORDER

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Josiah B. Solomon | 1858 - 1860 |
| Rev. L. C. Perkinson | 1860 - 1862 |
| Elder James S. Purefoy..... | 1862 - 1873 |
| Elder C. T. Bailey | 1874 - |
| N. Addison Purefoy..... | 1875 - 1878 |
| D. A. Glenn | 1878 - 1884 |
| Wilson Bunyan Morton..... | 1885 - 1891 |
| Nedham Bryon Cobb | 1891 - 1894 |
| George W. Harmon | 1894 - 1896 |
| J. T. Edmunson | 1896 - 1904 |
| I. N. Loftin | 1904 - 1906 |
| William Jackson Jones | 1906 - 1908 |
| A. V. Joyner | 1908 - 1910 |
| W. P. Campbell | 1910 - 1912 |
| K. W. Hogan | 1912 - |
| W. B. Morton, returned for a few months | 1913 |
| Leonidas L. Johnson | 1916 - 1918 |
| C. H. Myers for a few months | 1918 - |
| L. Spurgeon Clark | 1918 - 1920 |
| Norley Franklin Britt..... | 1921 - 1922 |
| W. R. Stephens | 1924 - 1928 |
| Frederick Guy Walker | 1929 - 1937 |
| (Only one pastor has served longer) | |
| James S. Potter..... | 1938 - 1940 |
| Robert Holt | 1942 - |
| Eugene E. Poston | 1943 - 1944 |
| Herbert P. Miller | 1944 - 1946 |

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Wayne A. Slaton | 1947 - |
| Warren T. Bush | 1949 - 1953 |
| Earl Louis Harden..... | 1954 - 1955 |
| E. E. Ballard | 1956 - 1957 |
| Alfred Thomas Ayscue..... | 1958 - |

JOSIAH B. SOLOMON

Dr. Solomon was born January 18, 1824 in Franklin County, North Carolina.

He attended college at Louisburg, and graduated M. A. from Wake Forest College. He received the degree of D. D. in 1870 from Bethel College, and also from the South-Western University in 1871.

He was licensed to preach by Haywood Church in the Tar River Association in 1844 and ordained by the same church in 1848. He was missionary of the State Board in 1850 and 1851, pastor in Warrenton from 1852 to 1860. It was during this pastorate that he began to preach at Sharon Church becoming its first pastor from 1858 to 1860.

In 1860 he accepted a call to the Leigh Street Church, Richmond, Va. and was there until 1865. Then he returned to Warrenton and taught school there, and in other sections from 1865 to 1869.

From 1870 through 1873 he was professor of English at the University of West Virginia and supplied the Baptist Church in Morgantown.

He was pastor at Jefferson from 1873 to 1875. At this time he became the pastor again at Sharon Church on a part-time basis, or rather in a field with other churches of the locality. 1875 to 1880.

He served various other churches in Kentucky and Indiana, until 1899, at which time he retired from active ministry.

The remainder of his life was spent with his sons in Owensboro, Kentucky and Chicago, Illinois.

Pastor Solomon was an able preacher, drew large

crowds to his services, and baptized many converts. He was the author of two books, "Terms of Communion" and "The Inspiration of the Scripture."

ELDER JAMES S. PUREFOY - 1862 - 1873

The first mention I can find of Elder Purefoy was that he attended the Nineteenth Anniversary Meeting of the Tar River Association which met at Haywoods Meeting House, Franklin County, on Friday before the first Sunday in October 1849.

He did not attend Wake Forest College as a student but lived in the town of Wake Forest. He was a minister and a merchant. (He graduated at Columbian College, Washington, D. C.)

He was the pastor of Sharon Church from 1862 to 1873 serving a longer time as pastor than any pastor before or after him. He served as pastor of Sharon during the trying years of the Civil War, and during the Reconstruction Period, and the records actually showed progress in all the phases of church work.

At this time he was a trustee of Wake Forest College, and spent much time and money in raising funds for the College in the poverty stricken years following the War. For nearly two years he spent his time mostly in the North securing gifts and pledges of approximately \$10,000 without any salary whatsoever. His expenses were very slight because he made friends with the people and was entertained by them. From 1865 to 1872 he was Treasurer of the College, and thereafter served a number of years as its agent for fundraising, all without salary. It is said by more than one person writing of his services that his work actually saved the life of the College in the post war period.

PASTOR N. ADDISON PUREFOY - 1875 - 1878

Pastor Purefoy was born in Wake County, North Carolina in 1811. He attended Wake Forest College, but gradu-

ated from Columbian University, Washington, D. C. with the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

He was pastor for several years of the Fayetteville Church.

He married Miss Indiana Watson, and settled in Warrenton, where he lived for thirty years, and served country churches.

He was pastor of Sharon Church from 1875 to 1878.

He served as Moderator of the Tar River Association at the sessions of 1863 to 1870.

The last few years of his life were spent at Wake Forest, where he died in 1887. He left two children, a son and a daughter. They reside in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mr. Purefoy was regarded by his brethern as exemplifying the highest type of Christian character.

ELDER C. T. BAILEY - 1874

Dr. Bailey was a native of Williamsburg, Virginia, where he was born October 24, 1855. He professed religion early in life and was baptized by Scuvant Jones. He attended school at William and Mary College and at Richmond College, graduating from the latter school in the late fifties. He was ordained to the ministry at Williamsburg in 1858, and entered at once upon the work of the ministry.

He entered the Confederate Army as a private in 1861, but was soon discharged on account of poor health. During the remainder of the War Between the States, he preached in several country churches.

In October 1865, he became principal of Reynoldson Academy in Gates County where he remained until 1868, at which time he became the pastor at Edenton for three years.

He went to Warrenton in the fall of 1871 and pastored that church for five years. It was during his stay there. that he also pastored Sharon Church for one year, 1874.

In 1875 he bought the Biblical Recorder, and conducted this periodical with great ability for nearly twenty years, or until he was forced to discontinue this work on account of a paralytic stroke. He then transferred this work to

his gifted son J. William Bailey. Dr. Bailey was president of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention in 1885 and 1886. He was a gifted writer, an able speaker, and a man of affairs, which made him a Baptist leader in North Carolina. He died July 5, 1895.

PASTOR D. A. GLENN - 1878 - 1884

Rev. D. A. Glenn was a native of Western North Carolina. He graduated from Wake Forest College in the late seventies and soon thereafter, he located in Littleton, N. C.

In the Tar River Association he was pastor of Brown's, Gardner's, Littleton, Sharon, and Warren Plains Churches. He served these churches from January 1, 1880 to 1884. He was pastor of Sharon from 1878 to 1884.

According to records, he was a good preacher and pastor, full of zeal and enthusiasm and was very successful in the work of soul-winning.

He resigned his pastorate here in November of 1884 and accepted a call to the second Baptist Church of Petersburg, Virginia at which time he moved to that city.

His work in Petersburg was very successful but after a few years, he accepted a call to another field, where he labored with his usual results.

He has held many pastorates and has always been held in high esteem.

In 1921 he resided in Bristol, Tennessee.

PASTOR WILSON BUNYAN MORTON - 1885 - 1891

Dr. Morton was the youngest son of Rev. Edward C. Morton, and was born at Lilesville, N. C. February 19, 1856. His father died when he was very young, a few years later his mother was killed by lightning, and he was left an orphan with a little sister three years younger than himself entirely dependent upon him.

After providing for his sister, he undertook to educate himself and by his untiring labors prepared himself for col-

lege at Lilesville Academy, at the time Dr. Needham B. Cobb was principal of that school. Later, he graduated from Wake Forest College, and studied for two years at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He left this institution in 1885 and entered at once into active ministry of the Gospel.

He has been pastor at Weldon, Sharon, Gardner's, Littleton, Louisburg, Roxboro, Dunn, Marion, Columbia, New Bethel, and White Level, all in North Carolina.

Through the years he has achieved the reputation of being an able preacher and an excellent pastor always taking a lively interest in his church work. He was pastor of Sharon from 1885 to 1891, returning later for a few months, about 1913, but due to some misunderstanding with the church, he withdrew to prevent a split.

He married Miss Annie Upperman of Louisburg, N. C., and to them God gave a son and a daughter, Elizabeth and Wilson.

During his career he became a successful optometrist in Louisburg, but never let this work interfere with his ministerial work to which he had committed himself many years before.

He lived for many years in Louisburg and no doubt some of his generation still live there.

PASTOR NEEDHAM BRYAN COBB - 1891 - 1894

Dr. Cobb was born in Jones County, N. C. February 1, 1836. At the age of eighteen, he graduated BA at the University of North Carolina and received the Masters degree in 1856. Judson College conferred on him the honorary degree of D. D. in 1889.

Dr. Cobb taught school in 1857. He then read law with Chief Justice Pearson and located in Greenville, N. C. practicing his profession in Pitt, Wayne, and Greene Counties..

In October 1869, he left the Episcopal Church in which he had been a vestryman, and was baptized in Greenville by Rev. Henry Petty. In 1860 he was ordained in Wilson, and

at once entered actively into the ministry. During the War Between the States he was Chaplain of the 14th. North Carolina Regiment. From 1862 to the close of the War, he served as Superintendent of Army Colportage, with marked success. After the close of the War, he and Dr. Hufham edited the Daily Record of Raleigh for six months and then he became Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday School Board.

Dr. Cobb served the State and his denomination as teacher, editor, newspaper correspondent and historian. In all these departments, he rendered fine service, but did his best work as pastor and preacher. He also did good work on mission fields and in destitute sections.

During his long and successful career as a minister of the gospel, he served various churches: Goldsboro, Elizabeth City, Second Church Portsmouth, Va. Returning to North Carolina he served at Shelby, Lincolnton, Lilesville, Rockingham, Fayetteville, Chapel Hill, Waynesville, Morganton, Hickory, Hillsboro, and later at Gardner's and Sharon in the Tar River Association. He was at Wise from 1891 to 1894.

He was president of Wayne Institute and Normal College, Professor of Latin and Greek in Goldsboro Female College and was principal of Lilesville High School.

For three years 1879, 1880, and 1881, he was president of North Carolina Baptist State Convention and at nine sessions, he served the Convention as one of its recording secretaries. For four years he was pastor and secretary of the Board of Missions of the North Carolina State Convention.

Dr. Cobb was from 1865 through 1893 editor of the North Carolina Almanac. He was author of the "Reply to Grays Elegy", "Cold Water" and various other poems. These were published in a volume entitled "Poetical Geography of North Carolina and other Poems."

He was twice married. His first wife was Miss Martha Louisa Cobb of Pitt County, whom he married December 27, 1859. To them were born twelve children. One of his sons, Professor Collier Cobb was a distinguished member of the faculty of the University of North Carolina.

His second wife was Miss Ann DeLise Fennell of Samp-

son County, to whom he was married September 3, 1891. To them were born three children.

Dr. Cobb lived long and well. He died on the 31st. day of May, 1905. Dr. Hufham said of him, "No minister in North Carolina has served better the Baptist Churches and the people of this state in his day and generation than Needham Cobb, and no man was ever less a self-seeker."

REV. GEORGE W. HARMON - 1894 - 1896

This able man was a native of Davidson County. He was educated at Wake Forest and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary when the latter institution was at Greenville, South Carolina.

His wife was a daughter of the late Judge Logan. He entered actively into the ministerial work. His first pastorate was at Wadesboro. When he went there the church had almost become extinct, but under his leadership, it took on new life, and still goes forward progressively. While there he and Rev. B. G. Covington edited a religious newspaper with a large circulation.

He went from Wadesboro to Cheraw, South Carolina to pastor the church there. He did constructive work there and left the church in a prosperous condition.

Returning to North Carolina, he held several pastorates. His last work was in the Tar River Association where he was pastor of Weldon, Gardner's, and Sharon Churches.

This pastorate began the first of January 1894 and closed with his death, which occurred in 1896. He lived in Weldon and his wife preceded him in death by a short period. He was an earnest, Godly man, a strong preacher, and a loyal Baptist.

REV. J. T. EDMUNDSON - 1895 - 1904

Evangelist Edmundson, a descendant through his mother of the Randolph's of Virginia, was born at Bull Head, North Carolina, on December 3, 1861. He was edu-

cated in the school taught by his mother, who for forty-seven years was a successful teacher. He also studied at the Baptist Theological Seminary.

He was converted at Wilson's Mill in a meeting held under a bush arbor. Later he was ordained by the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro, to the full work of the ministry, 1892.

He was pastor of Beulah Church, Virginia. He left this work to become a member of the National Evangelization Society of Baltimore, Maryland. Since that time his only pastorates have been Littleton, Sharon, Mamaduke, and Vaughan in the Tar River Association, and the Temple Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Although he was pastor of many churches, he always found time to conduct evangelistic meetings. He was for a time one of the State Board Evangelists of Kentucky. For many years, his whole time was devoted to evangelistic work, and in his meetings, there have been over thirty-one thousand professions and many thousand have been added to the churches.

Although nearly sixty years old (1921), he has for the last six months preached from one to three times a day, and is vigorously pushing the work he has been engaged in for so long.

His address in 1921, was 202 North Moreland Avenue, Atlanta Georgia.

REV. I. N. LOFTIN - 1904 - 1906

Brother Loftin's boyhood was spent in a cotton mill. Early in life, he was converted and feeling a call to the ministry, he prepared for college at Buies Creek Academy, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky.

His first work was in the Tar River Association where he served as pastor of North and South Henderson churches, and later at New Bethel and Sharon. His work in this Association was very constructive and successful.

Resigning from his work here, he became pastor of

Blacksville Memorial Church in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Under his leadership, the church grew rapidly, and the building was enlarged and much improved. This church became one of the strong churches of the State.

Mr. Loftin had a brief, but very prosperous ministry. He died in 1907, only one year after leaving Sharon Church.

WILLIAM JACKSON JONES

W. J. Jones was born in Gates County. He Was graduated from Wake Forest College in 1908, and did graduate work at Chicago University in 1909.

While a student in high school, he served as pastor of Red Mountain Baptist Church, and while a student at Wake Forest he was pastor of the Baptist Church of Wise, and of Gardner's near Macon. At Wise, he led in the construction of a new stone church building and helped his people establish a high school.

After graduation from Wake Forest, he was called to the Baptist pastorate in Salemburg and Roseboro, giving half time to each and leading in the building of modern new brick churches in these towns. He was soon elected Moderator of the South River Baptsit Association, and took active leadership in the erection of better houses of worship, building of brick and improved design throughout the assembly. On Sunday afternoon he preached in the Baptist Churches at White Oak, Elizabeth, Autryville, Piney Grove, and Ebenezer. Under his ministry, Autryville and Elizabeth built houses of worship. He preached every year, until retirement, bacca-laureate and commencement sermons that have taken him to many parts of the South.

In 1908 after having served as principal of Salemburg Academy, he married Mollie Roberts Edwards, widow of the former principal.

From a one building high school serving less than 100 students, the Rev. Jones built a plant of 11 buildings serving around 400 students, boys and girls, from the first grade through junior college. Educational opportunities were of-

ferred not only to students who were able to pay, but to many indigent students as well.

After Mrs. Jones death in 1945, the Rev. Mr. Jones' health slowly declined, and at his own request, a room was reserved for him at the Whispering Pines Home in Fayetteville which he occupied until his death.

DEATH AND FUNERAL - Died October 5, 1954 - The Rev. W. J. Jones, president emeritus of Pineland College and Edwards Military Institute, died in a Fayetteville hospital Tuesday night. Funeral services will be held at Salemburg Baptist Church Thursday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. The Rev. Charles Howard of Buie's Creek and the Rev. Nixon Royal of Durham will officiate. The body will be taken to the church at noon. Interment will be in the Salemburg church cemetery.

He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. G. N. Ashley of Salemburg; two sisters, Mrs. Causey Holland of Frum Hill and Mrs. J. A. Gardner of Gates; three grandchildren.

Author's Note: This is an exact record of Pastor Jones' life as given to me by his daughter, Mrs. George Norman Ashley of Roseboro, N. C.

PASTOR A. V. JOYNER - 1908 - 1910

Mr. Joyner was born near Murfreesboro, Hertford County, N. C., September 25, 1878. He attended the Woodland Public School, Winton and Bethel Hill High Schools, and graduated from Wake Forest College, taking the BA degree in 1907. The following year he spent at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

On June 11, 1909 he was united in marriage to Miss Rena Lassiter, of Wake Forest, N. C. She was always an inspiration in his work.

He was pastor at Sharon and Gardner's in the Tar River Associatoin 1908 - 1910, at Tarboro, N. C. in the Roanoke Association 1910 - 1912, Pullen Memorial Church in Raleigh 1912 - 1914. In 1914 he accepted a call to Waynesville, N. C. in the western part of the State. He remained

there until 1920, then he accepted a call to Williamston in the Roanoke Association (1921).

He is a good preacher and has done a great deal of good in the churches he has served.

PASTOR W. P. CAMPBELL - 1910 - 1912

Brother Campbell was born in Marion County, South Carolina, on June 4, 1861 of Scotch Presbyterian stock, the influence of which has had a marked characteristic in his religion and his ministerial work. His early education was in the common schools of his neighborhood, and in Thompson Military Institute of Siler City, N. C. He attended Wake Forest College in January 1904 and took a course in pastoral theology under Dr. Cullom, and was ordained by the Spencer Baptist Church in March 1904.

His first pastorate was at Seven Springs and other neighboring churches. He then served Allen Street Church in Charlotte. From there he went to Florida for the winter on account of his health. Returning to the State he became pastor of Sharon and Gardner's Churches (In the same field) 1910-1912, in the Tar River Association. On account of the health of his wife he returned to Florida, and became pastor at Green Cove Springs and Hasting. After his wife's health improved, he returned to North Carolina, and became the pastor of a group of churches in Catawba County. From there he went to Fuquay Springs and later accepted a call to Arlington Street Church, Rocky Mount, but due to poor health, he was unable to do the work of a pastor. He then resigned and went to the mountains to regain his health.

In the fall of the same year, he was supply pastor of the First Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, N. C. From there he went to Chadbourne,, N. C., where for more than four years he was pastor. He also preached in other nearby churches during this period.

Rev. Campbell was considered an able minister and was an earnest worker.

PASTOR K. W. HOGAN - 1912

Brother Hogan was a native of Montgomery County, North Carolina, and was born near Star, December 28, 1878. He attended the neighborhood "Old Field Schools," Poplar Springs School near Star, High School at Star and Shiloh Academy at Shiloh, N. C. in Randolph County. He spent three full years at Wake Forest College.

He served churches as pastor in Granville, Wake, Chatham, Anson, Union, Mecklenburg, and Warren Counties.

In the Tar River Association, he was pastor of Bethesda, Gardner's and Sharon, and Vaughan Churches. He also did considerable evangelistic work.

He lived in Monroe, N. C. in 1921 and served several country churches. Mr. Hogan was a good preacher, and is sincerely devoted to the work of the ministry. He was pastor at Gardner's and Sharon in 1912.

PASTOR LEONIDAS L. JOHNSON

In January 1916, Dr. W. R. Cullom of Wake Forest College was asked by Sharon Church to send a supply pastor. He sent L. L. Johnson then a student at Wake Forest College. He accepted the call to our Church in February of that year. During the summer of this year he was ordained to the full ministry of the gospel work at Rowan Baptist Church, Clinton, N. C.

During the war years, Brother Johnson was rejected for military duty on account of limited eyesight or vision.

Pastor Johnson finished the required studies for his B. A. Degree in March 1918 and returned to his home in Sampson County, and Delway, N. C. This ended his services as pastor of our church, but I would like to record here these facts in his history.

Pastor L. L. Johnson was born at Delway in Sampson County, N. C. September 15, 1895. His parents were Calhoun C. and Laura A. Johnson. He was the youngest son of eleven children and a younger brother of Dr. Walter N. Johnson and

the Rev. Elbert N. Johnson, lately pastor at Wagnam, N. C. Both are Baptist pastors. He began his schooling in 1901 at Delway in Sampson County, finishing in 1913. In 1914 he entered Wake Forest College and finished his work there in 1918. In 1921 he went on to Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, finishing there in 1922.

He was married to May Gardner of Mount Olive, N. C., Duplin County, May 24, 1915. To this union eight children were born: two sons and six daughters. The sons were 1st. A. Bouham Johnson, farmer of Magnolia, N. C. 2nd. D. Calhoun Johnson, Missionary to Chile, South America, now in Spanish Language School, San Hose, Costa Rica. Will sail for Chile October 1959.

The daughters were: Thora, Wife of J. Maxton Womble, Lillington, N. C., Dolores, employed by Asheville Citizen Times, Asheville, N. C.; Gretchen, Wife of Rev. J. C. Corbett, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Marion, Ill.; Faith, Wife of Rev. Gaylord Lehman, now completing graduate studies, Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Janet, wife of Michael Hemans, Valpariso, Chile, South America, home-maker and musician; Fonrose, wife of Carroll Gore, Assistant Home Demonstration Agent, Harnett County, Lillington, N. C.

After leaving Wise church, Brother Johnson went to the Eastern Association and pastored Silvan, Ebenezer, and Springvale Churches from 1918 to 1921. As I have stated, he attended Southwestern Seminary in 1921, 1922 to 1923, he pastored the churches, Sawyers Creek and Moyock, in the Chowan Association. 1924-1928 his work was in the Wilmington Association at Atkinson, Centerville, and Bethlehem Churches.

His work was continued in the Little River Association from 1928 to 1933 at the following churches: Lillington, Friendship, Neils Creek and Antiock.

In 1933, Pastor Johnson returned to the Wilmington Association and pastored Bethlehem, Moore's Creek, and Pt. Caswell. In 1946 Olymphic church in the Dock Association

was added to his pastorates. He still cares for the last four named churches, 1958 -- Brother L. L. Johnson now lives at Magnolia, N. C.

C. H. MYERS - 1918

The following is an actual transcript of pastor Myers' letter to me:

"I followed Reverend L. L. Johnson as pastor of Sharon Baptist Church, Wise, N. C. in the spring of 1918 and served till early fall of the same year, when I resigned to accept a position as principal of the Commercial Department of King's Business College, Charlotte, N. C. and to serve as pastor of Independence Hill and to do other church work near Charlotte. After four years at Charlotte, I went to Louisville, Ky. and entered our seminary there graduating in the spring of 1925 with the Master of Theology degree. While in the seminary, I served churches in Indiana.

"In 1925, I was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Mooresville, N. C. and served that church 13 years. On June 1, 1938 I became pastor of the First Baptist Church, Cheraw, S. C. and served that church a little over ten years. On July 15, 1948 I became pastor of old Flint Hill Baptist Church, York County, S. C. and served that church till May 1, 1958 at which time I retired from the active pastorate. I have been kept busy supplying and holding revivals since.

"I enjoyed my short pastorate at Wise and have often wished that it could have been much longer, but I like many other students was frustrated by the war at that time. The people that composed the membership at that time were so nice to me. I remember such names as Perkinson and Hicks and others. Rev. W. O. Biggs of Elm City now deceased did the preaching in the revival there in the summer 1918 and it was a good revival. I remember a sweet young woman singing a solo in the revival appropriate to the War situation entitled, "Keep the Home Fires Burning." I also remember riding in

a buggy to the baptismal service. How I would love to visit you some time.

"Give my love to all the members and the pastor.

Sincerely yours,

C. H. Myers."

Who was the girl who sang the solo, "Keep the Home Fires Burning?"

(Rev. Myers' address is: 414 C. Street, North Wilkesboro, N. C.)

AUTHORS NOTE: This is a second letter from Pastor Myers, that gives more information than his first letter about his life and service. For that reason it is included in these life sketches, though there is some duplication.

C.H.T.

414 C St., North Wilkesboro, N. C.

October 3, 1959

Mr. C. H. Thompson
Wise, N. C.

Dear Brother Thompson:

It is with pleasure that I give you a bit of information about myself, in response to your letter of recent date. It is as follows:

Charlie Herbert Myers was born in Yadkin County October 6, 1888, the son of William Henry and Sarah Tate Myers. He attended the public schools of Yadkin County, Yadkinville Normal, Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, N. C., and King's Business College, Raleigh, N. C.

After teaching three years in the public schools of Yadkin County, he accepted a position as bookkeeper for Pinehurst General Office, Pinehurst, N. C. for one year and for Fayetteville Woodenware Co. for one year. While at Fayetteville, he was married to Addie Mae Martin of East Bend,

N. C. December 28, 1910. Mrs. Myers is now living and they have three sons and one daughter.

Mr. Myers resigned his position as bookkeeper in 1911 and accepted the position of Principal of Sharpsburg Graded School, Sharpsburg, N. C. which he held for five years. It was here that he was ordained to the ministry on October 8, 1915 and served as pastor of Aeon and Mt. Hermon, and as assistant to the late Rev. W. O. Biggs at Sharpsburg Baptist Church which ordained him.

In the fall of 1917, Mr. Myers, with wife and three children, entered Wake Forest College for one year. During part of the year 1918 he served as pastor of Sharon Baptist Church at Wise. In the fall of 1918 he accepted the principalship of King's Business College, (the Commercial Department) Charlotte, N. C. and the pastorate of some churches near-by. After four years under this arrangement, he entered the Southern Seminary at Louisville. Taking with him a wife and four children, he graduated in the spring of 1925 receiving the degree of Master in Theology. While at the seminary, he served churches in Indiana. Upon graduation, he was called to the First Baptist Church, Mooresville, and served 13, years. Then at Cheraw First Baptist Church, Cheraw, S. C. for ten years, and his last active pastorate was at Flint Hill Baptist Church, York County, S. C. Flint Hill organized in 1792, is the mother church of the First Church of Charlotte, N. C. After ten years at Flint Hill, Mr. Myers retired and settled at North Wilkesboro, N. C. where is kept busy supplying and holding revival meetings.

Mr. Thompson, this is just about it. If you have a homecoming service some time, I would appreciate an invitation, and would come if at all possible.

May God bless you and the Wise Baptist Church.

Sincerely

C. H. Myers

L. SPURGEON CLARK, D. D. - 1918 - 1919 - 1920

Pastor Clark was born at Candler, N. C. July 10th., 1893. Candler is a small town between Asheville and Canton. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Levi S. Clark of Candler, N. C.

He attended the Graded School of Candler from 1900 to 1913, followed by High School work at Mars Hill College from 1913 to 1916. He entered Wake Forest College in 1916 and graduated from there in 1920 with a B. A. degree.

In 1918 he came to Wise Baptist Church as the pastor. He held two revivals in the church during his stay here. Pastor Clark was a member of the Wake Forest Quartette, and had them come to Wise to sing several times. During his pastorate here, Brother Clark would come to Wise on Saturdays, spend the day with the members, preach on Sundays, spend Sunday night, and take an early train back to Wake Forest on Monday morning to attend his classes there. He says nothing outstanding happened in the church while he was here due to the fact that he could only be here on Sundays, but I personally recall he was a good student pastor, and well liked here.

After graduating from Wake Forest he went North to attend Rochester Seminary in Rochester, N. Y. He graduated from this school with a B. D. degree in 1923.

On May 24, 1923 Pastor Clark and Miss Susan B. Hunt of Clyde, N. Y. were united in marriage. This union was blessed with two daughters: Laura Louise Clark born February 27, 1925 and Sarah Sue Clark born November 4, 1930. He pastored the First Baptist Church of Hornell, N. Y. Then it seems he started his return to the South for he pastored the First Baptist Church of Uniontown, Pa. from 1934 to 1942. During his pastorate at Uniontown, he received his D. D. degree from the American Bible College in Detroit, Michigan.

In 1942 he returned to North Carolina to Pastor the First Baptist Church of Mount Holly, N. C. remaining there until 1950. In 1950 he accepted his last active pastorate,

Abee's Grove Baptist Church of Valdeese, N. C. His work with this church terminated in 1957.

After a long and useful life of pastoring many fine churches, he retired in 1958. However, he still does supply work in Buncombe Association and holds revivals in churches whenever he is able to.

His home is at Biltmore, N. C., now a part of Asheville. Here he grew up as a boy, and here he returned to spend the last years of his life. His hobby is gardening. We wish him many sunny years and few storms as he settles down to rest a bit after a magnificent life spent in Christian service.

His address: 15 Erwin Ave., Biltmore, N. C.

PASTOR NORLEY FRANKLIN BRITT - 1921 - 1922

Norley Franklin Britt was born in Roberson County, N. C. on April 24, 1896. His parents were Rev. Paul T. and Margaret Britt. He attended the Graded School in Roberson County, Lumberton, N. C., going on from there to High School at Buies Creek, Buies Creek, N. C. After graduation from Buies Creek, he went to Wake Forest College, Wake Forest, N. C. While there he became pastor of Wise Baptist Church for two years, namely, 1921 and 1922. At this time he was also pastor of Corinth Baptist Church in Franklin County, near Louisburg, N. C. These two churches employed him on a part time basis, or rather, they were in the same field. He also attended Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Pastor Britt married Miss Ora Lee Holden of Louisburg, N. C. on May 23, 1924. The ceremony was performed at Louisburg College by J. A. McGrer, B. M. and was witnessed by Mrs. J. A. McGrer, her daughter Betty McGrer, and H. A. Falkner. Of this union, there were six children born, four girls and two boys. All are still living except one boy who died early in life.

In addition to pastoring the church at Wise and Corinth Church in Franklin County, Mr. Britt has pastored the following churches:

Wakefield Baptist Church, Wakefield, N. C.

Britton's Neck Baptist Church, Gresham, S. C.
North Park Baptist Church, High Point, N. C.
South Side Baptist Church, Thomasville, N. C.
Trinity Baptist Church, Trinity, N. C.
Morlan Park Baptist Church, Salisbury, N. C.

I understand Pastor Britt has retired from active ministry now, but does sell Bibles, religious books, maps, etc. Seemingly, he had a long and full life in the active ministry and pastored many fine churches of North Carolina and South Carolina. However, most of his churches and his work was devoted to North Carolinians.

I do not have his address or know of his whereabouts, but one of his daughters resides, at this writing, at this address:

Mrs. J. M. Godwin, Lake Village, Wilmington, N. C.

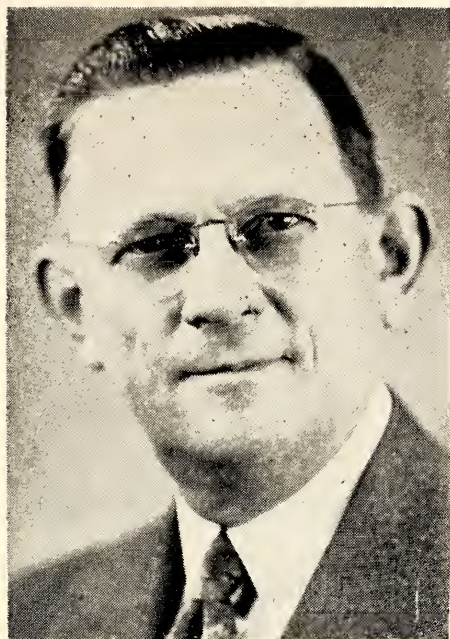
PASTOR W. R. STEPHENS - 1924 - 1928

Pastor Stephens' pastorate began at Wise in January of 1924. At that time we were in the field with Norlina Baptist Church. However Pastor Stephens only pastored this church for about two years. He remained at Wise until November of 1928. While he was Pastor there, the name of the church was changed to Wise Baptist Church (1925) and still is called by that name.

Electric lights were installed in the church in 1925 also.

He also led the church in making an every member canvass. He also asked the church to pledge \$600 on the 75 million dollar campaign, this money to go for Christian Education, State, Home, and Foreign Missions. The church adopted this suggestion and put it in action.

There are no records to show how much progress was made in other fields of endeavor in the church while he was pastor here. Brother Stephens is retired now, and resides in Fayetteville, N. C. (Feb. 1959).



FREDERICK GUY WALKER

Preacher Walker was born and reared in Cleveland County, N. C., a county that has sent out more men than any other in North Carolina into the ministry. Later in his life when I knew him, I often joked him about the hard, red cotton land of Cleveland County and told him this must have a lot to do with these men going into the ministry to escape it. He always smiled at this threadbare pun.

He dropped out of school in his teens, and after he was twenty-one years old, he felt the call to preach. He then entered Boiling Springs High School, a boarding school where he worked his way through, graduating in 1923. He taught a year in Rutherford County, and then entered Wingate Jr. College where he graduated in 1926. Upon his completion there, he went to Lilesville Church as pastor, and in addition to his pastoral duties, taught school (1926-27-28).

In September 1928, he entered Wake Forest College

graduating from there in June of 1930. While a student there he pastored a number of rural churches. He came to Wise in October 1928. At the same time he accepted White Level and Sulphur Springs. He later gave up Sulphur Springs and pastored the West End Church in Hillsboro, N. C.

After graduating from Wake Forest, he received a call to Castalia on a half-time basis. When he went there White Level agreed to take an afternoon service, since Castalia and Wise had the morning services. Then Redbud asked for an afternoon service. He also taught in the Castalia High School, the first two years he and his family were there (1932-1933).

At this time he was married, and lived near the High School in Castalia. He married Cora Louise Williams of Mt. Gilead, N. C. on December 27, 1927. All through the years Mrs. Walker was a faithful companion and worked in all of his churches, usually teaching one of the Sunday School Classes and singing in the Choir each Sunday. To this union two children were born: Helen Elaine, a daughter, and Fredrick Guy, Jr., a son. Both are living and married now. Helen has two wonderful sons.

When he moved to Castalia, during the depression years, and even though he had a small salary he was instrumental in a worthy boy going on to college and finishing law school, lending him from his meager salary money for his room and board. Today this young man is one of the leading lawyers of Nash County, and well known throughout North Carolina. He said to Mr. Walker a few years ago, "If it had not been for you, I'd never have finished college!"

For several years during his stay in the Tar River Association, he served as Clerk of this body. When he accepted a call to another Church in South Carolina. Charles Gillespie, then pastor of Smithfield Church, a friend and Classmate, said, "Tar River is losing its most faithful pastor. He is the most faithful man to his task I have ever known."

In February of 1938 Preacher Walker accepted a call

to the First Baptist Church of Chesnee, S. C. He remained there for seven and a half years.

His next pastorate was the First Baptist Church of Sparta, N. C. He was there six and a half years on until February of 1952.

On February 1, 1952, Preacher Walker accepted a call to a large rural Baptist church, Pleasant Grove, just out of Albemarle, N. C. During his stay here, he was instrumental in these people building a modern parsonage near the Church.

On April 24, 1955, Preacher Walker was stricken with a fatal heart attack, during his morning service at his church. He was taken to the parsonage nearby, but was soon dead.

This was not the first attack he had, but one of many, and yet he continued to try to carry on his soul wining work. A small index card was found after his death on which he had a few days before written -- "Lord, I am so willing to do your will! Please reveal it to me! If its go or stay, I'm so willing." He was laid to rest in beautiful Fairview Memorial Park in Albemarle, N. C.

Preacher Walker was one of the finest persons I've known. Through the years we came to love each other with a love that exceeded the love of a brother. With all the work he had to do, he always found time to love and help people where ever he could. He never had time for a real vacation. When I insisted that he should take some time out for himself, he always said, "My time belongs to my people; they need me, and I want to be there ready to help." He was always like that. He loved people. I think he paid the people of Wise Baptist Church a very fine compliment over and over again. He would say, "I never worked with a sweeter or more cooperative congregation in my ministry."

Though we were dear friends, I think it only fitting that I close this chapter with some remarks made and written to me by his helpmeet and wife, Mrs. Walker. She says, "He was sweet, good, and conscientious on all matters. He had his faults. He was human. He made mistakes, but they were of the head and not of the heart. I think he was

the most willing man I ever knew to do the will of God. He loved the souls of people. His heart was tender -- the least little encouragement lifted him -- likewise the least unkind thing would crush him and I've seen him weep over an unjust and unkind act against him."

After the Preacher's death, Mrs. Walker moved to Albemarle. There she had a beautiful little home built, thus realizing in part a dream that she and the Preacher had for years, that upon retirement they might have a comfortable little home here to spend the remainder of their days together -- but fate ruled otherwise.

Mrs. Walker's address is: 316 Palmer Street, Albemarle, N. C.

ROBERT L. HOLT - 1942

Pastor Holt was born in Dixie, Georgia on January 1, 1920.

Graduate of Lee Edwards High School, Asheville, Mars Hill College, Wake Forest College (A. B & MA) Duke University (Ph. D.). Served as Minister of the following Baptist Churches: North Warrenton, Wise, Norlina, Cedar Fork (Durham). Mt. Zion (Raleigh). Interim Pastor: Mars Hill, Drexel, Washington Second.

From 1950 to 1953 he served as Director of Religious Activities and Professor of Religion at East Carolina College.

From 1953 to 1958 he was Vice-President in charge of Public Relations at Mars Hill College.

Since 1958 and to present date he is Registrar and Director of Admissions at East Carolina College, Greenville, N. C.

PASTOR JAMES S. POTTER - 1938 - 1940

James S. Potter came to our church as pastor in 1938. He was still in school at Wake Forest, and journeyed down twice a month for morning and evening services. He was active in all phases of church work and led the church forward

in the two years he was student pastor. Progress was made in the Sunday School, WMS, BTU, and so on. The church membership also increased. When he had to leave on account of continuing his education at the Seminary, it was genuine regret the members felt, as he left us for other fields of endeavor and achievement. In a recent letter he says "One of the greatest achievements of my ministry was there in Wise -- realizing some of the happiest days of my life. It gives me a feeling of nostalgia when my mind flashes back."

Rev. Potter is now pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Raleigh, October 15, 1958.

PASTOR E. EUGENE POSTON - 1943 - 1944

Pastor E. Eugene Poston came to Wise during the summer of 1943. He was still in school at Wake Forest at this time. He left in the fall of 1944 for the Seminary to continue his education.

While he was at Wise a Building Fund was begun, which later resulted in a Building Program. However, the Building Program came after he left. He recalled that one of the high lights of his stay here was the revival held in the summer of 1944 by Rev. W. A. Elam, Pastor of the Dover Baptist Church in Shelby, N. C. He felt this was the beginning of a new day for the people of Wise Baptist church. Thirty-three new members were added to church by baptism that year, bringing the total membership to three hundred and twenty-seven.

Pastor Poston went on to a large and better school and bigger fields of service. Today he is Dr. E. Eugene Poston, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Jonesboro, Ga. However, he says he has never forgotten how good the people of Wise were to him when he was young and lacked experience.

New address: Rev. Eugene Poston, Head of Dept of Religion, Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N. C.

PASTOR HERBERT P. MILLER - 1944 - 1946

These are the exact words of the preacher in a letter I received from him on October 20, 1958.

"Herbert P. Miller was another young preacher that Wise Baptist Church helped to educate. He drove up from Wake Forest on the second and fourth Sundays, and conducted morning and evening services during 1944-1946. He led the church to adopt a modified form of the unified budget, and to use the individual six point record system envelopes for the first time. As a result, a marked increase in the gifts to the church was recorded. It was during this pastorate that the old heating plant gave out, and the church had to install a new one."

Rev. Miller is now pastor of Balfour Baptist Church, Asheboro, N. C.

PASTOR WAYNE A. SLATON - 1947 - 1948

Pastor Slaton came to Wise as pastor in January of 1947. He was still a student at Wake Forest. He came down to Wise for services twice a month, morning and evening, until the fall of 1948. At that time he left Wake Forest to attend the Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. During his pastorate plans were begun to renovate the main auditorium of the church. The church returned to the use of Sunday bulletins. (The church had used them during Rev. F. G. Walker's pastorate). Rev. Slaton speaks kindly of the people of Wise Church and says his ministry there has been helpful in later years.

He is now pastor of First Baptist Church of Bryson City, N. C. October 19, 1958.

PASTOR WARREN T. BUSH - 1949 - 1953

Pastor Bush accepted the call to Wise Baptist Church in the late fall of 1948 and took up the work in January of 1949.

During his ministry the following things were ac-

completed. Stained glass memorial windows were installed in Church at a cost of around \$2,400.00. The windows were actually paid for by members of families that had lost a dear one to eternity.

The church rented a parsonage and Pastor Bush moved in June of 1951. This was the first venture of the church to establish a parsonage.

During his stay here, the roof was repaired and the bell tower waterproofed. Steel railings were also put on the front steps.

He also spurred the members on to raising a little over \$7,000.00 on the educational building which was built later.

The church prospered under his pastorage and suffered a great loss when he resigned in October of 1953 to accept a call to the Scottsburg Baptist Church of Scottsburg, Va. He made many lifelong friends while here, and has been called back many times to assist in the final rites for departed friends.

At this writing he is at Butner Baptist Church, Butner, N. C. There he is carrying on his work in a wonderful manner. I saw him recently and he told me of what he is doing.

EARL LOUIS HARDEN - 1954 - 1955

Pastor Harden came to us late in 1953. About the second Sunday in November, I believe. Pastor Earl L. Harden was born in Lee County, West Sandford Township, June 11, 1928. His father's name is John Alton Harden and his mother's name was Lillie Mae Lee.

A child born in West Sandford Township would normally have attended the City Schools, however there are no records of this, so we assume his family moved away soon after his birth, so I have no records of his early education. Perhaps he attended school in the Burlington area, since his father, John A. Harden, Sr. lives at 912 Dixie Street, Burlington, N. C.

Pastor Harden graduated at Wake Forest College in

the summer of 1951, and was ordained at Southside Church, Burlington, on April 11, 1951. Mr. Harden attended Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C. for two years beginning in September 1951.

On August 15, 1953, he was married to Mrs. Lillie Mae Catlette Peddy of Raleigh. At this time his address was Franklinton, N. C. and he was pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church near there. I understand he also ran a hardware store there for a while.

Late in 1953 Pastor Harden and his wife moved to Wise, to become the pastor of our church, and the North Warrenton Baptist Church. He remained at Wise until the second Sunday in November 1955. During his stay here he and his wife drew the plans for our Educational Building. This was completed in 1954 at a cost of \$15,000. I have no other records of any other outstanding achievement.

Mr. Harden and family moved to Canada in 1956, but returned to Raleigh in 1957. He attended East Texas Baptist College during the fall of 1957, and entered Wake Forest College in September 1958, presumably for post graduate work.

In the fall of 1957, Mr. Harden moved his family to Elm City, N. C. and still resides there. His address is Box 68, Elm City, N. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Harden have two children -- John Earl, 4 years old, and David Louis, born in 1958.

Since leaving Wise his ministerial work has been on a supply basis, but he expects to re-enter the full time ministry in the very near future.

In the past he has pastored City Lake Baptist Church, Burlington, N. C.; Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, near Franklinton, N. C., Wise Baptist Church at Wise, and North Warrenton Baptist Church, Warrenton, N. C. The last two pastorates were on a part time basis.

PASTOR E. E. BALLARD - 1956 - 1957

Rev. E. E. Ballard came to be our pastor in 1956. He says the most outstanding thing he did was to lead the membership of the church in renovating the church.

At the time he came to us he was a student at Wake Forest. He lived in the parsonage and commuted to school in Wake Forest for the time he was with us. During the time he was out of school, during the summer and during the vacation time he was active in supervising and working on the repairs to the church. On Sundays, he was active in soliciting funds for this work. In fact he worked too hard at this, for it caused him to be unpopular. But he realized this, for he said if this much needed task of renovation was to take place, someone must make a sacrifice, so he had no regrets, I believe.

He left us in 1957. He is now the pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Enfield, N. C. (November 1958).

ALFRED THOMAS AYSCUE

Pastor Ayscue came to us in 1958. He was born and reared on a farm in Franklin County and graduated from Epsom High School. Upon graduation he entered the 8th. Air Force and served during the Korean Conflict. After his discharge he married Hazel Buchanan. Soon he felt the call to the ministry and entered Wake Forest College 1952. He served as pastor Harriet Baptist Church, Henderson, N. C. before coming to Wise. We have not had Pastor Ayscue long, but already he has many friends. He is a hard worker, prepares wonderful sermons that are enjoyed by his listeners each Sunday. Pastor Ayscue and his wife have two lovely little daughters now. We hope we will be blessed with his work for a long time.

IN MEMORIAM

Our Church has had thirty pastors in the past one hundred years. Of this number, the passing years and disease has taken its toll. Fourteen have passed on to their Heavenly reward. They are as follows, with their years of service at Sharon and Wise Baptist Church:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Pastor Josiah B. Solomon..... | 1858 - 1860 |
| Rev. L. C. Perkinson..... | 1860 - 1862 |
| Elder James S. Purefoy..... | 1862 - 1873 |
| Elder C. T. Bailey..... | 1874 |
| Pastor N. Addison Purefoy..... | 1875 - 1878 |
| Pastor D. A. Glenn..... | 1878 - 1884 |
| Pastor Wilson Euryan Morton .. | 1885 - 1891 |
| Pastor Needham B. Cobb | 1891 - 1894 |
| Pastor George W. Harmon..... | 1894 - 1895 |
| Rev. T. J. Edmudson | 1895 - 1904 |
| Rev. I. N. Loftin | 1904 - 1906 |
| Rev. W. J. Jones | 1906 - 1908 |
| Pastor A. V. Joyner..... | 1908 - 1910 |
| Pastor Frederick Guy Walker.. | 1929 - 1937 |

Chapter XXII

CONCLUSION

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

In conclusion, I wish to give thanks to the many people that have made this work possible.

I've used Dr. T. J. Taylor's History of the Tar River Association for much of the sketches on our early pastors up until 1921. His work in this field was very thorough, and I especially appreciate that fact.

I'm very thankful to Mrs. Cole Nichols of Rockingham, North Carolina for a picture of Rev. L. C. Perkinson, the founder of our church, and our second pastor. Incidentally, he is the only pastor to come out of our Church.

Then I would not forget the help of the late Ben L. Perkinson. He had a keen mind and a wonderful memory. He made it all available to me in this book.

To the Misses Carrie B. and Emma Dunn, I give thanks for making many efforts to get information for me from the Church records and other sources.

Then I'm thankful for the use of the Library at Southeastern Baptist Seminary at Wake Forest, North Carolina, which made available to me the Minutes of the Tar River Association from the beginning of our church through 1924.

And to Rev. R. E. Brickhouse who loaned me his Minutes from 1924 to 1948. He probably has the most complete file of Tar River Association Minutes of any person in the Association.

I'm also thankful to Mrs. Howard Munn who loaned me her copy of Dr. Taylor's History of the Association.

Mrs. Margaret S. Felts, my cousin, has been more than helpful as she has typed the complete book for me without any remuneration for her services. I thank her.

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There have been so many people that have helped that I may forget some. To those, I say forgive me, and thanks for your help.

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Finally I would like to thank Mr. Nat Hayes, of Greensboro, N. C. for reproducing the map of the cemetery, and printing two hundred copies. Without his help this very valuable part of the book would not have been possible. I'm very grateful for his assistance.



Cemetery Association Officers

Rev. A. T. Ayasue, Ex officio
 Coley Perkinson, President
 Leon Perkinson, Vice President
 Caretaker
 Mrs. Sol Perkinson, Secretary
 Mrs. M. S. Dryden, Treasurer
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Note: Unassigned lots may be purchased through the officers of the Wise Baptist Church Cemetery Association.

